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COMMERCIAL, PITTSBURGH.

THE DEATH-DAY OF WILLIAM COURTLAND PRENTICE.

BY GEO. D. PRENTICE.

Once more I come at set of sun
To sit beside thee, long-lost one;
To muse upon thy joyous prime
In that dear unforgotten time,
When thou didst bound o'er hills and plains,
Life running wild in all thy veins,
And thou in manhood's young estate
Didst almost seem to challenge fate.

Thine eagle-spirit ever soared
Where fiercest broke and tempests roared,
Through battle's flame and smoke it dashed,
Where bayonets gleamed and sabres clashed;
But ah, a fatal shaft was sped,
And thou wast with the stricken dead;
Now thou art here beneath these fields,
Struck by man's lightning, not by God's.

Dear Courtland, thou, the strong, the brave,
Fillest a warrior's bloody grave;
The soil above thee, wet with showers,
Gives birth to sweet and beauteous flowers;
But 'e'en the white rose tinged by wo
Bears in its veins a crimson hue,
As if its mournful essence came
From the red death-wounds of thy frame.

Thou sleepest well! The bugle note
Of battle may above thee float,
The tramp of chargers' hoofs around
May like an earthquake shake the ground,
The cannon's voice, the victors' song,
May through the sulphurous air peal out,
But thou wilt sleep amid the rout,
No power but God's can wake thee more.

Perchance, when fallen in the strife,
Thy young lips breathed a prayer for life,
Perchance thy heart heaved one deep sigh
To think that thou so soon must die.
But, had it been thy lot to know
The coming triumph of thy foe;
Hadst thou foreseen, all rent and riven,
The cause to which thy soul was given,
Foreseen the flag, thy guide, thy star,
Trailed low behind the conqueror's car;
Foreseen fierce desolation's stride
O'er the bright land that was thy pride;
Foreseen hill, plain, and vale, and wood,
Swept as by storms of fire and blood,
The cities which were then the blessings fell
Changed by man's passions to a hell,
Its homes, where joy and love first met,
By hunger's howling wolves beset,
Its human forms like shadows flit,
Its streams like ghostly Phlegethons,
Thou would'st have blessed with latest breath
A kindly God for his dark shaft in death.

Thy form is in this sacred spot,
Thy memory and thy soul are not;
Thy name high hearts will strive to keep
Through all thy lone and solemn sleep.
Gift bards have strung and bards will string
Their sweet measures to thy fame;
Pure song-wreaths ever more to bloom
Like amaranths upon thy tomb,
Like golden lilies in deep souls lie
The golden tones of thy memory's sky.
Bright ones will sigh—the young, the old—
When thy young destiny is told.
Thy laurels, with soft heart-dews wet,
Brighten as suns shall rise and set.
And fear-flouts heave and swell to thee
As to yon moon the heaving sea.

Louisville Journal.

THE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL GRANT.

Humiliating Failure of the President to Fasten Blame on the General.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 23, 1868.

[Special Dispatch to the New York Times.]

After an incubation of three days, the President has supplied his newspaper gentlemen in waiting with a fresh batch of statements and charges on the subject of General Grant's action on the War Department question. This fresh attack is designed to counteract the effect of the plain, irrefutable facts set forth in the *Times* of Monday, but they do not make the case any plainer nor the President's position any better. They only prove that the discomfiture of His Excellency is so complete that he must console himself by asking public attention to his grievances. There is no need of going anew into the denial by detail of the many skillful misrepresentations with which the President has endeavored to bolster up his case. The testimony of third parties who were never present at any of the interviews until after the thing was over is of no avail to show what General Grant agreed to do before that, no matter how highly respectable such witnesses may be.

The whole question is contained in the circumstance of the interview of Saturday, the 11th inst. That interview was the one sought by Grant's own seeking. The President did not send for him as has been stated. Gen. Grant sought him for the express purpose of settling the matter with him; and just prior to leaving his office that day, he announced to Gen. Sherman, Chief of Staff and to Gen. Sherman his intention of visiting the President, and stated his purpose to be to positively inform Mr. Johnson of what his view of the Tenure of Office act were, and what his action would be as a consequence.

This Gen. Grant did. He saw the President Saturday afternoon, stated his view of the law, and plainly told him the line of action which he seemed to him he must pursue. The President met him by a pettifogging argument about the law and an attempt to evade the responsibility of its recognition, by asserting that his action in the case thus far had been under the Constitution and not under the law. This did not only appear absurd but contemptuous.

The President knew how General Grant stood and what he was likely to do. General Grant had sought to tell him, and thus relieve him from any false impressions which previous interviews might have engendered. If the President did not want to carry out the law in the way it

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1868.

THE CONNELLSVILLE RAILROAD CHARTER RESTORED.

By a telegram from Philadelphia we learn that the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in a unanimous opinion read by Judge SHARSWOOD, have pronounced judgment in favor of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company, and against the Commonwealth, in the *Quo Warranto* case, which has been pending for more than two years, but was only argued a few days ago.

As we understand this decision, it is entirely and *finally conclusive* of the merits of the case, and leaves the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company an unimpaired charter, and a conceded right to extend their road to Cumberland, and there connect with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. This decision will also relieve the State of Pennsylvania, and its Judiciary, from the accusation of subserviency to the interests of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

The case in the Circuit Court of the United States, wherein Judges GRIER and MCCANDLESS gave a similar decree in favor of the company, and from whose decree an appeal has been taken to the Supreme Court of the United States, will, we suppose, be no longer of importance—the decision of the Supreme Court of the State, in favor of the validity of the company's charter being *conclusive* upon the Commonwealth and all parties claiming under her.

We may, therefore, hail the immediate completion of the long talked of and greatly desired connection between the cities of Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Baltimore, by the Connellsville route. Now that the act by which the charter of this company was sought to be revoked has been declared a nullity by the Supreme Court, the Legislature should at once wipe it from the statute book by the passage of the act recently brought before it for that purpose.

We shall take another occasion to speak of the importance of this result, not merely as it affects the Connellsville Railroad Company, but the public at large. We shall also lay a copy of the decision before our readers at the earliest opportunity.

AN IMPORTANT WORK.

W. MILNOR ROBERTS, Esq., consulting Engineer, has presented to the Erie Canal Company of Pennsylvania an exhaustive report on the subject of the enlargement of the canal between Beaver and Lake Erie, its entire length. Mr. ROBERTS gives an interesting review of the construction and present condition of the canal, and then presents a carefully prepared exhibit of the adequacy of the water supply for the enlargement. After proving the feasibility of the improvement, he gives estimates of the cost of excavation, embankment, dredging, etc., on all the canal levels and pools between Beaver and Lake Erie, including the deepening of the outlet in the lake at Erie, amounting in the aggregate to $1,867,754 34. In addition to this the cost of altering and arranging the French creek feeder will be $156,421, which will make the entire cost of the improvement amount to $2,024,175 34. Mr. ROBERTS is of the opinion that if the proper preparations are made for commencing the work in the spring of 1868, the canal could be enlarged and ready for business by the spring of 1870.

The importance of these improvements will not be a question after reading Mr. ROBERTS's statistics of the present and prospective business of the region traversed by the canal, and of the benefits that will be conferred upon the cities of New York and Chicago and intermediate towns. He gives figures to show that New York can be supplied with gas coal by way of the canal at a saving of nearly one-half of the present cost. After giving figures showing the cost of transportation to New York to be $3 20 per ton, he says:

"Add to this a profit of 50 cents per ton it gives a freight of $3 70 per ton, from Pittsburgh to New York, without making any allowance for back freights of anthracite coal, pig iron, dry goods, salt, plester, and other heavy articles, the return freight of which would materially reduce the cost of transporting the coal. If, however, we assume the coal freight, according to the foregoing calculation, to cost $3 70 per ton, and allow the coal at the Pittsburgh coal banks to be worth $2 30 per ton, which it would always leave another large margin, and sell the coal delivered in New York, $6 00 per ton, when the gas companies are now paying $10 50-100 per ton for Englishcoal, for inferior to that brought by Pittsburgh and Shenango Valley and Beaver Valley Coals. This presents a direct saving of $4 50-100 per ton, which on 300 000 tons (or say in one year) would amount to $1,350,000. To carry 300,000 tons, allowing a cargo of 200 tons each, would take 1,500 boat loads, and a boat making one trip a month for seven months, it would require 214 boats, which at $4,000 each would be $850,000; and putting the cost of the canal at $2,000 each would be $1?0,000; making the cost of the outfits, horses, harness, &c., at $60,000, the total would be $1,310,000. So that the difference between the present prices in New York, and the future price under this system, would be, in one year, on 300,000 tons, more than a reasonable estimate of the cost of the entire outfit of boats, &c., which would last for a long term of years, including also a profit to the coal merchant of at least one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000). "It will be said that capital will not be forthcoming for this business? On this point I am prepared, on my personal knowledge, to refer to dealers of Pittsburgh, to state confidently my belief, that cash sum the gentlemen who can and will do it, when the canal shall be finished and the river improved so as to effect the navigation more surely. It is even probable that I could name one gentleman who is able and who might be willing to undertake the whole thing if needed."

MR. ROBERTS continues:

"Iron, nails and glassware, and numerous other manufactured articles, can be transported from Pittsburg and Chicago, including loading at Erie, for such articles as pass in the horse-boats, for not exceeding $8 50 per ton, and would be carried from Chicago to Pittsburgh at an average cost of not over $5 per ton for loading, canal tolls, and including transfer by elevator at Erie. It would be within reasonable bounds to estimate that upon the opening of the navigation through the enlarged canal, the basin as that would pour through it from Pittsburgh and Allegheny, Detroit, Milwaukie and other important points on the upper lakes, including the trans-portation of iron and copper ore from Lake Superior, would amount to over 100,000 tons per year, adding *at least* $85,000 to the tolls. This should be added to the coal business and other trade from Pittsburgh and the Beaver Valley passing via this canal to New York State and Canada, say 200,000 tons per annum, which would yield at least $80,000 in tolls. These make an aggregate of receipts amounting to $662,308.

Concerning the importance of this canal to the city of Pittsburgh, Mr. ROBERTS says:

"Thirty years ago when this canal was just begun, Pittsburgh was not one third its present size, and its trade was less than one fifth of what it now is in shape, and was, of little consequence. With this canal enlarged and the railroad system connected with Pittsburgh from becoming a much more important shipping port than it has been heretofore? What grain can come direct to vessels from Chicago, and be manufactured with the cheap fuel which is here inexhaustible; and when foreign and eastern goods from New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, by railroad to Pittsburgh, can be sent in the same 300 ton vessel direct to Chicago and other lake cities? It appears to me that such will certainly be the course of trade, to a very great extent, with this enlarged canal in operation.

"Pittsburgh, more than any single city, has a deep interest in the early completion of this improvement of the navigation between the Ohio and Lake region, although every city on the upper Ohio will likewise be more or less benefitted. All the cities of the Lakes, and in Canada, and in the western half of New York, are interested, and will be the means of bringing them cheap fuel, cheap and good gas, and cheap manufactures of various kinds, and at the same time by increasing the friendly business intercourse of thousands, will tend to cement more firmly our common bond of union, and thus add largely to the general good."

The above extracts will give an idea of the great value of this report, which covers thirty-eight octavo pages, and it is deserving the attention of our capitalists and business men.

By the cable we have reports of great destitution and disturbance both in England and France. Reports of this sort do not usually have a political bearing; but at the present time, in France especially, where the public mind is a good deal unsettled regarding political questions, and where, in consequence, an unusual interest attaches to whatever is calculated to stimulate discontent, these things acquire particular importance. The stability of the Empire, more than that of almost any other government, depends on keeping the people employed and contented. While no real danger need be apprehended under any state of things, so long as the Emperor lives, or so long as the army is true to the head, there is, nevertheless, a certain positive interest connected with this state of disorder, particularly in view of the fact that the Emperor's end cannot be long distant and may be very near, giving rise to the question—NAPOLEON gone, what then?

While the English government has no questionable tenure, there also elements exist, and a transformation is going on which lend an unusual interest to these reports. Bread riots are no new thing in England; but with Fenianism and the reformers in the field, with other things giving momentum to changes to which the government appears to be more than inclined to consent, the unsettled condition of which we hear has such a distinct importance that further news will be looked for with uncommon interest.

A FEW days since the *World* published what purported to be the comments at a Cabinet meeting of the different members of the Cabinet on General GRANT's course, in connection with the return of Mr. STANTON to the War Office. The language reported to have been used by them was to the import that the General had falsified his word, proved himself, according to the report, "a sneak," and much more in the same spirit. No one will be surprised to hear that the members of the Cabinet who were made to appear thus before the public, have authorized their friends to pronounce the publication false, and deny that they ever uttered such sentiments.

THERE has been some talk lately of making Commodore VANDERBILT the Democratic candidate for President. We hope not; though he being a GRANT man and a great deal more capable than some who have held the position, the arrangement might not be a bad one. Nevertheless we object to it; mainly because we want to keep the Commodore where he is, for the sake of the reform which his system and example are likely to work in the Railway management of the country. In the affairs of the New York Central he is cutting right and left in the work of retrenchment, with great results already. And we are assured that his example has even now had its effect in a quarter where least it was to be expected—we mean in the affairs of the Camden and Amboy Monopoly. It is to be hoped that it will not stop there—nor will it. The stock of the New York Central before these reforms were instituted, was heavy at 95; now it is quick at 132. The holders count confidently on regular ten per cent. dividends and a large surplus. With this example before them, holders of the stock of other roads, doing even a larger business and possessing greater advantages, will not be content with six per cent. dividends and continually increasing indebtedness, while certain managers and "rings" are all the while accumulating fortunes. The patient holders of railway shares throughout the country are greatly indebted to Commodore VANDERBILT for commencing the work of reform in railway management; for as surely as time goes on it will become general; and we trust the time is not distant when all railroads will be managed in the interest of the stockholders and the public solely.

THE *Sentinel-on-the-Border* is the title of a new candidate for the patronage of the peace Democracy. It is published at Louisville, and bids fair to compete sharply with BRICK POMEROY's paper, which is the favorite of the "white man's party." The character of the new candidate and its claims on the Democracy, can be inferred from the following, which is a sample of its columns:

"Christ was the first Democrat, and his twelve *white* Apostles the first converts to Democracy. The Democratic creed is spread upon the pages of sacred, moral, and natural history. It is the sister of Masonry, going hand in hand in the work of fraternity and good will among men. It is the champion of the rights of the many against the tyranny and power of the few. So was Christ! It is the friend of the poor and oppressed, and sympathizes with the weak and powerless, so did Christ. It seeks to build up, not to tear down. This was Christ's mission. It asks justice for all men, and equality among the brotherhood. So did Christ! Its mission is for the salvation of the *white* race. Such was Christ's belief. He did not affiliate with the negro: he worked with *white* men for the benefit of *white* men! Of all his Apostles and associates, not one was a nigger!"

GEN. BEATTY, Republican, was on Monday elected to Congress, to fill a vacancy, from the Eighth District in Ohio. His majority is not much under one thousand, which is a Republican gain of between seven and eight hundred. There is a real significance in this result, which the Democrats at least will not fail to understand. They went into the contest with high expectations and a strong candidate—Col. BURNS. The vote was heavy and the gain is an actual one—a result which shows that the people design to take no step backward, however for a moment and under peculiar circumstances, they may in certain places, have seemed to pause.

THE signs at Washington are encouraging for retrenchment. A review of the last few months informs us that General GRANT has reduced the estimated expenses of the War Department five millions while he was at the head of that bureau; that by the action of Congress the Naval estimate has been cut down twenty millions, and by the suspension of the currency contraction a further saving of fifty-two millions a year has been insured—making in all upward of seventy-five millions of dollars. Taxpayers will not fail to note these facts.

PRUSSIA is looking at our Naval vessels with the view possibly of buying some of them, which has led to the report across the ocean that the American Navy had been placed at her disposal. It certainly ought to be considered something in our favor that nearly all the countries in the world possessing navies, either have become or evinced a desire to become purchasers of our ships, the much abused monitors included.

THE President is said to have in preparation a message vetoing the Anti-Contraction Bill, on the ground that it will prove an impediment to specie payment, and prove an unwise measure. Like other bills treated in that way, this one will command the requisite two-thirds in Congress.

THE question which deeply exercises the Southern ex-rebels and their Northern Democratic sympathizers is, how can eight millions of whites prevent four millions of blacks outnumbering them? The settlement of this question involves the grave problem of "negro domination," which constitutes the stock-and-trade of the Democratic party.

The Destitute in the South.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Allow me to acknowledge the receipt of fifty dollars for the above object from Mrs. Lydia Irish, New Castle, Pa. Mrs. Irish is the aged and honored mother of our late most efficient and active Secretary, who died a year or so ago, Hon. Elias H. Irish.

Mrs. Irish says in her note, "I freely contribute my mite to the cause, so feelingly set forth by thyself, hoping a like response may reach you from many other quarters."

I do hope those sympathizing with the object will be prompt in sending what they can in the way of clothing and money without waiting to be called on. JOS. S. TRAVELLI,

General Agent Freedmen's Aid Commission, Western Pennsylvania.

JANUARY 27, 1868.

Professor Goldwin Smith.

This distinguished gentleman whom reading Americans regard with so much favor both as an author and a man, is about to become a resident of this country. The hope of benefit to his health, much impaired by severe studies, and the desire to investigate and write the history of the United States, are the reasons assigned for this step. In a letter addressed to an American in London, dated January 9, 1868, he says:

My understanding necessarily implies a prolonged residence in the country where it must be carried on. But I am not going to seek naturalization in America, or to cast off my allegiance to my own sovereign and my native land. I shall be a candidate for no citizenship in America but that of the Republic of letters. In the present state of English affairs I can imagine, though I do not anticipate, the occurrence of a crisis which will render it incumbent on the honor of every Englishman to share, though he might be unable to influence, the destinies of his country. Believe me, dear sir, yours, very faithfully.

REFERRING to the proposition to distribute to the poor people in the South the left over army stores—which would be strictly in accordance with Sir William Ashton's injunction, viz: there's anything totally uneatable let it be given to the pair folk"—the New York *Sun* makes the following practical suggestion: "Since the war ended immense quantities of soldiers' uniforms and overcoats have been disposed of to second-hand dealers at low prices; but in settling accounts with the soldiers themselves, deductions are made from their pay for all the clothing furnished them at the rates established during the war. Now, why not treat our brave fellows at least as well as the shopkeepers? Let them not pay any more for what they have had than the goods would bring in the market." While this would be just to our brave men, it would not feed and clothe the hungry and naked in the South.

The Newark (N. J.) *Courier* thinks the candidate for Vice President with Grant will be either COLFAX, WILSON or HAMLIN, and expresses either COLFAX, WILSON or HAMLIN, and expresses its preference for the first named, because "it would add more vitality to the Grant ticket than any other name that could be placed upon it." The declension of Speaker COLFAX to run for Governor of Indiana is counted by some to mean that he regards his chances best in the direction of the Vice Presidency.

AN effort is being made to establish a rolling mill at Toledo. A gentleman from Syracuse (N. Y.) has presented a proposition which requires the citizens to raise "only $80,000 to $100,000," and twenty five per cent. dividends are vaguely hinted at. The railroads, it is said, have agreed to "keep the concern employed."

Pittsburgh Grain Elevator.

A few months ago there was a report circulated that the Pittsburgh Grain Elevator was sold—or about to be sold—to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Some of our daily papers gave credence to the rumor, which did considerable injury to the Elevator Company—depreciating its stock. We at once, on authority, contradicted the report. It has been again started, and we again contradict it. We were shown, yesterday, an official letter from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, stating that there is no grounds whatever on which to base the rumor. There are no negotiations whatever pending between the companies in regard to the sale of the Elevator to the Railroad Company.

WHILE the other European governments refuse to hold diplomatic intercourse with Mexico, Switzerland has chosen the other course. The *Bund* in notifying this determination to its agent, adds "that Switzerland recognizes the right of every nation to determine the form of its Constitution and Government; that the Swiss Republic has laid down the principle that it should not interfere in pretended contestations concerning the legitimacy of governments, and consequently does not hesitate to enter into relations with the present authorities in Mexico, the more so that the sympathies of the Swiss Government will always be in favor of a Republican regime."

A CORRESPONDENT connected with the English expedition into Abyssinia says that "the Abyssinian business will prove a very poor one for J. B.;" that "the commissariat is in wretched hands and in a very sickly condition;" that "the transportation is no better," and that "the mules and camels are dying by hundreds." He also adds "that the expenditure up to then must have been at least nine million pounds, although nothing has been done beyond the landing of two thousand troops and three thousand animals, and the construction of about thirty miles of road.

Is the Sir Culling Foudley who has just been convicted in an English court of bigamy and sentenced to imprisonment for eighteen months at hard labor, the gentleman so long and favorably distinguished in connection with meetings of the Evangelical Alliance and other religious affairs, and at one time known as Sir Culling Foudley Smith?

FLORA TEMPLE, the immortal little bay mare, is with foal. This is considered a remarkable circumstance, as the peerless Flora is well advanced in years. Her time, two miles in 4.50½, has never yet been equalled.

STATE NEWS.

Nearly eighteen hundred dollars have been collected in Philadelphia, for the relief of the Cretans, mainly by the exertions of Rev. Philips Brooks.

Mr. Baker, one of the lost by the Harry Dean disaster, on the 11th, was about seventeen years old, from Indiana county, Pennsylvania, where his father resides, and in company with Jacob Fulwider, was on his way to Illinois. Mr. Fulwider was lost, and his body (if recovered) has not been recognized.

At a meeting of the Westmoreland Democratic County Committee, on Thursday last, Bales McColly, Esq., and James W. Wilson, Esq., were appointed delegates to the Democratic State Convention, at Harrisburg, on the 4th of March next.

At a meeting of the Huntingdon County Agricultural Society, on the 14th inst., the Treasurer presented a report showing a balance in the Treasury of $708 87. The following officers for the ensuing year were elected by the Association: President, Livingston Robb; Recording Secretaries, R. McDivitt, J. M. Bailey; Corresponding Secretary, Dr. R. A. Miller. Treasurer, George Jackson; Librarian, Theo. H. Cremer. The present list of Vice Presidents was continued, Peter M. Bare, of Shirley, being appointed in place of B. R. Foust, removed; and John Silverthorn, of Tell, in place of Geo. Noss, removed.

Col. James Worrell, Fish Commissioner of Pennsylvania, a short time since entered suit against the Pennsylvania Railroad and Pennsylvania Canal Company, for failing to comply with the provisions of the act of Assembly of 1866, requiring the owners of dams in the Susquehanna river and certain of its tributaries to construct slices or ways in said dams for the passage of fish. A hearing of the case was had in the Dauphin county court last Saturday, and a verdict rendered against the company, but before judgment was entered, certain constitutional questions relating to vested rights arose which are to be argued at the next argument court.

There is a man named Americus Bender, living in Carroll township, Cambria county, who is eighty-three years of age, who says that he was at George Washington's funeral. He removed to Cambria county in 1807, and has been County Auditor and County Commissioner.

Rev. Amos Smith died at his residence in McConnellsburg, Fulton county, on the 20th inst., in the 73d year of his age. He was a Methodist divine, and an early period he had charge of the Lycoming, Bellefonte, Huntingdon, and other districts in this section, and at one time he was Presiding Elder of the Chambersburg district.

THE British army in Abyssina is rivaling the Albion Club in the way of climbing mountains and threading intricate passes. Correspondents, who would otherwise have little to write about, find ample material in the difficulties of the way, and are working off their old stock of mountain description with great effect. The route to the camp at Senafe is through a narrow defile, in places not more than twenty feet wide, and the sides rise half a thousand feet high on either hand, almost shutting out the light of day from the contracted passage. A correspondent compares the route to the ascent of Mount Rosa, and yet it is by this that the army of forty thousand is to reach, not King Theodore, but the first station for it's invading progress. Then there is a plague of flies, dust and locusts, and the scent of unburied bodies in the air. Hyenas, jackals and monkeys enliven night and day with their music, which mingles heavily with the dismal groans of the wounded. The pass itself is the best of its kind, with torrent, which, while it furnishes the blessings of fresh water, is an effectual barrier to transit in the rainy season. Hannibal's passage over the Alps was hardly more arduous than the feat the English have undertaken.

THE PRESIDENTIAL HANDICAP.—A writer in the *Tribune* thus enters Grant for the Presidential handicap:

"U. S. Grant, b. h., aged; dam Victory, sired by West Point; ridden by E. B. Washburne; colors, red, white and blue, with a black hoop."

A writer in a Western paper makes another entry, as follows:

"Andy Johnson, br. g., by Blow Hard, he by White Trash, he by Botch, dam Slag Waang by False Stitch, by Old Rye; ridden by Jerry Black; colors, Confederate gray jacket, with illusion sleeves and crimson cap."

The latest and most remarkable entry is the following:

George H. Pendleton, mot. g., dam Democracy, sired by Defeat; ridden by Republican; colors, green-(backs) and gray (backs).

WE have hardly begun to realize how many different ways there are for making money honestly and profitably. For instance, in Western New York, a man is engaged in the breeding of minks, whose skins are of great value. The thing is perfectly practicable. The account before us says: "While the expense of keeping is thus arrival, the profitable yield of the animal is comparatively immense, it being considered a moderate estimate to claim that one mink with her increase will equal the avails of a cow. Should this calculation hold good when the propagation of the mink is carried to a large scale, the business becomes one of the most profitable in the world."

THE debt of New York over and above the amount in the sinking fund is $44,114,592. The amount of tax paid to general State, county and town governments by the people of that State is about $25 per head. The real estate of the State has increased in value over 13 per cent. in five years. The entire value of the real estate and personal property in the State is put down at $4,500,000,000. The State assessors, however, only return the value at $1,664,000,000. The Federal, State and local taxes on the figures fixed by the Governor would be about 3 per cent. The receipts from the canals from all sources is a little over $4,000,000, of which over $1,200,000 have been paid out for maintenance.

THE Vicksburg *Sentinel* of January 22d says: It is with feelings of great pleasure that we are enabled to announce to our readers the arrival of Mr. Jefferson Davis and family. They came up yesterday morning on the steamer Magenta, and are the guests of his brother, Mr. Joseph Davis. After a long and painful absence. Mr. Davis is again gladdened by the view of his many loving friends, and he stands again an honored and adored advocate of his conscientious convictions in the midst of pleasant and familiar scenes in his adopted State. His coming was unannounced.

A WASHINGTON letter says: There will be no cotton tax for 1868. The points of difference now are between suspension and actual repeal of the tax, and on the form and length of time during which the duty on foreign cotton shall be suspended. The tax on manufactures and all industrial pursuits will be very light, probably nothing. So much then is certain—the shackles are to be thrown from industry—the nature and volume of the currency is not to be soon or abruptly changed. Business men can make their estimates with reasonable security.

THE London *News*, in its city article, says it was stated that English and German holders returned to the New York markets very large amounts of United States bonds in consequence of the "disgust" excited by General Butler's motion for paying off the five-twenty bonds in American currency, and by the discussions on the subject which have since been continued to the "serious injury of American credit."

NATIONAL HONORS TO REBEL DEAD

John Covode to Governor Fenton.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D. C., January 17, 1868.

To Gov. Reuben E. Fenton; Albany, N. Y.

SIR: I have read with sorrow and astonishment your letter recommending national honors to those who lost their lives in defense of our nation's life. But it is confidently believed that no such feeling pervades the breasts of the American people, or the surviving officers and soldiers of the Union armies.

"When we recall the generosity and moderation that marked the conduct of the people, the government and the army during the war, and the magnanimity that presided at its close, when we recall the generosity and moderation that marked the conduct of the people, the government and the army during the war, and the magnanimity that presided at its close; when we remember that our countrymen are now engaged in the work of reconstructing the Union on the basis of universal freedom, and with an earnest desire to restore to the Southern States a prosperity infinitely greater than that which slavery and rebellion conspired to destroy, it is impossible to believe that they would desire to make an invidious distinction against the mouldering remains of the Confederate dead, or that they would disfigure of their being carefully gathered from the spots where they fell during the war in the National Cemetery, on the battle-field of Antietam.

"Concurs as we were in the great struggle, our stern disapproval of the cause in which they fought need not forbid our admiration of the bravery with which they died. They were Americans, misguided, indeed, and misled, but still our countrymen; and we cannot remember them now either with enmity or unkindness."

I have read these paragraphs twice and thrice, but a dimness, other than the film of age, obscures them to my vision. It is in vain that I have wiped the spectacles of an old man, and endeavored deliberately and clearly to see in your words a justification for the recommendation they make. Two forms come between me and the printed page. They stay there, and will not move away. One of them is the figure of my eldest son, the Colonel of the Fourth Pennsylvania Cavalry—as brave, devoted, and generous a boy as ever filled a father's heart with pride and made a mother happy. He covered with his regiment a retrograde movement of a column of our army under Sheridan, in June, 1864, fighting every rod of his way. He fell badly wounded. His men endeavored to carry him off; but, hotly pursued, several of them were killed or disabled. He told his major to leave him and save himself and the command, and try to make a stand on the next height, and there gain time for the great wagon train ahead to escape to the James river. My son was laid upon the grass beside the highway, his men obeying his orders to return to their ranks, and leave him with the dead and wounded of his regiment to await capture.

The rebels soon came up, and, as I have been told, shot him again when he lay helpless on the ground, stripped him of his sword, money, watch, boots and clothes, and left him naked to die. An old colored woman, living in the neighborhood, brought him water to drink while he was dying. The next day he was buried in her garden.

Gov. Fenton, the plea of this murdered boy so comes between my eyes and the text of your recommendation of national honors to the rebel dead, that I cannot see in it a reason from which fathers and mothers who love their children should not instinctively shrink, and which should not shock patriots who have loved their country, and have made sacrifices for it.

There is, sir, another figure which makes filmy reading through my old spectacles. My youngest son, a private in the Fourth Pennsylvania Cavalry, who entered the army before he was fifteen years of age, was captured at Sulphur Springs, when Meade fell back to Centerville, with one hundred and fifty-six of his regiment, one hundred and forty-two of whom afterwards perished in prison. Twenty-four of those who died went out in the Covode cavalry, from my immediate neighborhood—all the sons of my neighbors—all objects of interest and care to me. After passing from one den of imprisonment and cruelty to another, they were finally immured with thousands of other unfortunates in the death-pen of Andersonville. Eighteen months of hunger and nakedness, exposure to the scorching sun and the winter's freezing, did their work on these stalwart and brave men. Many of them died idiotic, some of them feebly insane—all the victims of a system of starvation and cruelty planned by demons and executed by devils. My son's bodily vigor and resoluteness of spirit carried him through the horrors of Andersonville, with life left in him—with hardly anything more. He is home again with his mother, and I have just received a letter from her urging me to use another influence, for the grave of her son. The energetic, intelligent, hopeful, self-reliant, brave boy, who left my house to fight the enemies of his country, has not returned to me, and he never will return.

I think you will find that, in common with one, hundreds of thousands of loyal men, whose hearts yet bleed with wounds received in the wicked war the slaveholders waged against the nation's life, have been shocked and outraged by your recommendation to do honor to the authors of their sorrows and the workers of their country's foes.

Had you served in the army, either in person or through a son, and presented your offer of patriotism to your country on the picket line or the line of pitched battle, you would never have made the heartless mistake you have made, in what your biographer, writing your life, will call "the Antietam Letter." How much I wish you had imitated the manly and sympathetic behavior of Governor Geary, of Pennsylvania, a soldier and a statesman, who thus repelled the proposition to mingle the rebel with the Union dead under the Antietam Monument.

"There at sun has ever prevailed to specially honor those that have fallen in battle, or have given their lives. The monuments reared to the memory of departed heroes are the sacred offerings of a nation's love. They should be unmindful of this custom. But where are such monuments ever erected for men whose acts were high treason, and who fell in the battle of their lawless ambition, while seeking to subvert the very government which sacrificed their lives? Would you glorify the treason of Benedict Arnold with the same honors as those that rest in the bosom of Washington? Who would dare to insult the memory of Washington by proposing to lay Arnold by side in the same sepulchre, the body of the assassin Booth and that of Abraham Lincoln? No loyal man would dare to do it. Yet these are the two other demons that presided over the prison pens of Andersonville, Salisbury and Belle Isle, the executioners of the nation's victims, who were brought to untimely graves, and with the patriotic men who sacrificed their lives in battling for the right against the wrong. Yet it is proposed that the leaders in this accursed cause be laid in their sacred dead, and then desecrate them by the national flag, under which they marched against the country a warfare which for its diabolical character, has no parallel in the history of civilization, and even to erect monuments to their memory. Carry out this purposing, and what answer can be given to the loyal citizen to rebuke his right against treason, when he feels assured that should it succeed, the glory of the battle-field will be honored equally with his own?

"And for one, I shall not consent to a holy one, while that which opposed it must have been in converse. To the side stained by the glory of treason, but by that of loyalty, it was a contest of rebels who would have drained the life's blood from the government which nurtured them and protected them, against its patriot sons who fought to defend it. Rebellion and treason are to be carried on by the defenders and promoters of oppression, against the friends and lovers of liberty and the rights of man."

While there is no reasonable objection to giving decent burial to the dead, even to the rebel dead, we consider them deserving of honorable testimonials of disgust, but not of honor, to render honor only to whom we believe honor is due.

It is with grief, Gov. Fenton, that I write this letter to you. The subject is painful to me. But there sits on my heart a stone, and there lies in my village graveyard, and there broods in my heart a controlling reason why, since the appearance of your Antietam letter, I should regard your entrance into a National Republican Convention, a candidate for office, as an intrusion to which the survivors of the Union Army, and the relatives of its dead and wounded, should surely object.

Yours, &c., JOHN COVODE.

Besieged by Famished Cats.

It is said that an enterprising Yankee, having bought an island in the Ohio River, has stocked the same with black cats, intending to go into the fur trade. This reminds us of a similar experiment which was made many years ago by a gentleman who resided in Maryland. The idea struck him that the fur trade was so lucrative it would be much better to raise animals nearer home than the regions of the North and accordingly purchased an island in the Chesapeake Bay, stocking it with the blackest of black cats. He paid extravagant prices for the felines, and all the boys in the adjacent country went extensively into the business of entrapping unsuspecting Tommies and Tabbies, which were immediately disposed of and sent to the aforesaid island.

The gentleman found the cats were prolific, and was soon compelled to employ seven men to live on the island and fish with a seine, in order to supply them with food. At first the fishermen had quite an easy time, and readily supplied fish in abundance for their wharfage, but the number daily increased until whole legions of black cats trooped over the island home, devouring every thing in the shape of food, and the men found it impossible to furnish the requisite amount of nourishment. At last it was determined that one of the men should take a boat, and, returning to the mainland report the alarming state of affairs. During the absence of the messenger the cats became exceedingly bold, and the remaining party, fearing for its life, locked himself up in the cabin and prepared for a siege.

The enemy, emboldened by this display of fear, and urged on by hunger, surrounded the house, climbed up the sides, staring in at the affrighted man, through the windows and apertures, keeping up the while the most hideous caterwauling. He carefully stopped up every crevice save the chimney, but hearing and seeing ominous falling of soot, which disclosed a determination, on the part of the besieging force to effect a surprise, he closed that opening also, and, Micawber-like, waited for "something to turn up." For two days and nights he was kept in this singular prison, with the dreadful howl of famishing cats ever resounding in his ears, and with savage eyes glaring at him continually.

At length a party arrived, with guns, and succeeded in rescuing the man from his truly awful position, but so numerous were the cats, so fierce their aspect and threatening their demeanor, that both the rescuers and rescued were glad to leave this pandemonium of jet black cats, gaunt and ferocious, as they were, from starvation. The animals, we believe, all perished, and thus ended one of the most extensive cat-rearing ventures ever recorded. The individual who has started a cat plantation on the island in the Ohio river may have the benefit of this experience, related above, free of cost.

CONNELLSVILLE RAILROAD CHARTER.

The Unanimous Opinion of the Supreme Court.

In the Supreme Court, sitting in Banc, in Philadelphia, on Tuesday, Judge Sharswood delivered the unanimous opinion of the Court in the case of the Commonwealth against the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company, as follows:

1. It is claimed on behalf of the Commonwealth that the defendants have forfeited their charter under the laws of Pennsylvania, by procuring a charter from the Commonwealth of Maryland. We will assume the fact to be so. It has been contended that such an act is inconsistent with the allegiance which a corporation owes to the sovereign who created it—that it is *crime lesæ majestatis*—a species of treason. No authority has been cited for this position. It seems to be vested on some supposed analogy to the case of individuals. A corporation cannot transfer its allegiance by accepting a charter from another State. It does not thereby thrust off its obligations under its original charter, nor can it take shelter under the wing of its new relation from the consequences of any violation of its duties under its old one. The act can in no way harm the Commonwealth. The Court will maintain and enforce all her rights against her own corporation, without regard to any immunities she may claim to possess beyond her territories and within the jurisdiction of another State.

2. Another ground upon which the Commonwealth demands judgment is, that the defendants, under cover of their Maryland charter, have instituted proceedings in the criminal courts of the United States for the Western district against another corporation created by this State, and other persons praying that an act of legislation may be declared null and void. The premises, for the purposes of this case, may be safely admitted, that a corporation which undertakes to drag its sovereign, *ad for insecum examin*, before the bar of the tribunal of another sovereign, violates its first and paramount duty, and thereby subjects itself to the extremest consequences. But the next step in the argument fails. The Circuit Court of the United States is not the court of another sovereign. The Federal Constitution is the Constitution of their State, having been ratified and adopted by the sovereign act of the people in Convention, December 12th, 1787. They made it irrevocably their own by then entering into a solemn compact with the people of their sister States. Judgment for the defendants.

RICHES—NOTHING ELSE.

Death of One of the Astors.

[From the New York Correspondent of the Rochester (N. Y.) Democrat.]

Some time ago we gave the readers of the *Democrat* a sketch of the private asylum of the Astor family, which covers an entire block on Fourteenth street, near the Hudson River. This institution has become useless by reason of the death of its inmate who, after thirty years confinement, expired on Tuesday, the 7th inst., in his sixty-sixth year. The chief point of interest in this individual is that by lunacy he lost the richest inheritance in America. A half century ago the Astor family consisted of the parents and six children, three sons and as many daughters. Of the latter, one married a German Baron and died early, another became Mrs. Langdon, while the third married Bristed, and became the mother of Charles Astor Bristed. Of the sons, George died early in the West, and John Jacob, the eldest and most promising of the three, lost his reason in consequence of a fall. The other son, William B., is sufficiently well known to require no further comment. There was, however, a striking difference between the last mentioned two. John Jacob was thoroughly German in countenance, with the black hair and swart countenance so common among that race. William B., though likewise German in his features, was of a different type. He had red hair and coarse red features, and a dull look generally—a look which is a correct exponent of his character. The injury to his favorite son was a severe blow to the father, who considered him the heir of his increasing estate. The best physicians in New York were called, but could do nothing but pronounce it a case of insanity. The boy was taken to a lunatic asylum, but got no better. In fact, as he grew to manhood, he became worse in point of violence. He at last exhibited a frame of prodigious strength and corresponding force of passion, and in his fits of violence would assault any one who happened to be near him. It is said that in one of these paroxysms he put out the eye of another patient. Mr. Astor tried the best asylums in the land, but, finding that nothing could be done for his son, determined to take the case in his own hands, and accordingly, about forty years ago, he planned the present establishment. A block of vacant lots was purchased and enclosed and laid out as a garden, and in the center a house was built. A suitable keeper, a man of considerable medical skill was employed at a large salary to occupy this house and take the lunatic under his charge. The father was wont often to call and look after his unfortunate son, and this disappointing feature of his life he bore with fortitude. Instead of having his estate perpetuated under the name of John Jacob and under the control of his talented son, he was obliged to leave it to one who was at best a thick-headed fellow. In the meantime the crazy youth became a crazy old man, and was seen every fair day, by those who could look down from neighboring windows, walking with his keeper in the garden. The latter always armed with a cudgel to intimidate the maniac. At suitable times they drove out together in a coach. After the death of the father, and every means of comfort was adopted, the John Jacob Astor died, his will was found to contain provisions for the support of this establishment, and his executors have since had it in charge. In this manner one who was born the heir to the richest inheritance in America, died apart from the world for half a century. His funeral was attended in St. Bartholomew's church, on the Monday after his death. This church is but a stone's throw from William B. Astor's house, and we presume was selected on account of convenience. After service the remains were taken to the family plot in Trinity burial ground, ten miles from the city, and there the two John Astors will be laid side by side. There is a third John Jacob Astor, the son of William B., and a man of hardly more active intellect—but they all know one thing, and that is how to take care of money.

The Independence of the Press.

From the New York Times.

We have seldom seen the real function of journalism more clearly stated than it is in the following paragraph from the interesting "Recollections of a Busy Life," which Mr. Greeley is contributing to the columns of the *Ledger*. Speaking of the views and purposes with which he started the *Tribune*, Mr. Greeley says:

"My spirit in regard to Slavery and Intemperance in this country that the editor of a non-partisan sheet is restrained from saying what he thinks and feels on the most vital, imminent topics; while on the other hand, a Democrat, Whig, or Republican journal is generally expected to *support* either the Democratic or the Republican ticket, *in precise accordance with the views and interests of its party*. I believed there was a happy medium between these extremes which I hoped to find. I resolved that I might openly and heartily advocate the principles and commend the measures of that party to which his convictions allied him, *yet dissent frankly from its course on a particular occasion, and even denounce its candidates, should it they were shown to be deficient in capacity or (far worse) in integrity*. I felt that a journal thus loyal to its guiding convictions, yet *ready to expose and condemn unworthy conduct or incident I error on the part of men attached to its party, must be far more effective, even party-wise, than a journal which should indorse, applaud or reprobate, bless or curse, as the party's prejudices or immediate interest might seem to prescribe.*"

Public opinion in this country is freeing itself more and more from the slavish subserviency to party interest and party passion, which are in general quite as fierce and intolerant as Mr. Greeley describes them; and the Press begins more and more with public opinion, as its organ and representative, in asserting for itself a corresponding freedom. As the Press improves in ability, as it becomes more and more a recognized profession, and enlists in its service more and more men of learning, of intellect and of character, it will be more and more distinctly recognized as being no longer the servant of parties or the mere echo of men in office—but as having a position with rights and duties of its

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, February 1, 1868.

Weekly Commercial.

THE WESTERN PENITENTIARY.

Forty-first Annual Report--An Unparalleled Year--Six Hundred and Forty Prisoners--Condition of the Prison--The Congregate System--The Insane --Statistics, &c., &c.

We are indebted to Warden Campbell for a copy of the forty-first annual report of the Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary, detailing the operations of the prison for the year 1867. In regard to numbers, the year has been unparalleled in the history of the institution. The year began with four hundred and eighteen prisoners, and closed with four hundred and eighty-six. One hundred and thirteen were discharged by expiration of sentence, thirty-four were pardoned, five escaped and two died --making an aggregate of prisoners during the year of six hundred and forty.

A CHANGE DEMANDED.

As the prison contains but three hundred and eighteen cells, the law requiring "separate" confinement is violated, and increased difficulty is experienced in preserving order and discipline. The Legislature is asked for relief, either in the erection of a new prison, the enlargement of the old one, or the passage of a law whereby only those convicted of the higher grades of crime and sentenced to long terms, may be sent to the penitentiary, and those guilty of lesser offenses be sent to the county jails or workhouses.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS.

A hospital for the sick, in connection with which will be a suitable bathing apparatus, has been designed, and the cost estimated at $40,000, which the Legislature is asked to appropriate. The building will be of stone.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PRISON.

The Inspectors allude to the "ungenerous and invidious comparison made by certain portions" concerning the financial management of the prison, as between "our immediate predecessors and ourselves." The Inspectors then invite a rigid examination into all their official acts, as compared with any of their predecessors, and quote from the report of the Warden, for 1865, showing that when he assumed control the personal assets of the institution were given at over $80,000, while a re-invoicing of the manufactured goods at their true value showed an erroneous excess of over $96,000. Beside, when the present Board took charge, in August, 1864, there were but two hundred prisoners in confinement, since which time the number has steadily increased until it has reached four hundred and eighty-six. The large proportion of these recent convicts were necessarily unproductive.

THE CONGREGATE SYSTEM.

The Inspectors say:

Under the most favorable circumstances, in our Pennsylvania system, it is a difficult matter to train a prisoner a trade. It requires much time and the exercise of great patience, and if we succeed in our views on the congregate plan, they could all be made available at once, and in this manner relieve the counties from the burden, or even their partial sustenance. But we have to meet issues as they present themselves. The separate system has no fear and clothes whether they return remunerative labor or not. Under the circumstances, we get the largest available amount of work out of the prisoners that is practicable. If the result is unsatisfactory, all is due to the right cause. Discard your cell labor, change your separate system and adopt the congregate, and you will be able to use the muscle and brain of the prisoner much more to the advantage of the Commonwealth.

A WORD ABOUT THE INSANE.

There are three cases of insanity mentioned in this report. Two of them have been recorded in years, and are now discharged. The third, on an order from the Governor, was removed to the Western Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane. The person, but was soon afterwards returned to the prison by the physician in charge of the Hospital, who, in his opinion, he was deemed *incurably insane*. We would ask the attention of the Legislature to the great necessity there is for some institution that will secure to the insane convict a place in some State institution where he may be properly cared for. By special amended enactments of the law on this subject, no insane convict can hereafter be committed to prison on the higher grades of crime, can be transferred to the Western Pennsylvania Hospital at Dixmont, unless by the verdict of the jury in the case there is reason to believe that a cure of such insanity may be speedily effected." If this institution is intended only for the benefit of the curably insane, there is no resource for the ill-fated wretch who has no helpers and whose reason is declared to be "clear gone forever!" We hold that it is the duty of the State to make some speedy provision for his relief, either by the modification of existing laws, or the enactment of such statutes as will guarantee to him a humane and Christian protection.

APPROPRIATIONS ASKED FOR 1868.

The inspectors ask the following appropriations to meet the expenditures that will be required for the coming year:

For salaries of officers	$21,180 00
For erection of Hospital and Chapel building	
For balance due on steam as at 2½	2,500 00
Total	$48,180 00

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE WARDEN.

The Warden, Dr. H. Campbell, in his report, alludes to the separate and congregate plans, and remarks that "an experience of three years has brought me to the conclusion that something might be accomplished by a modification and combination of both systems of confinement." To make such a change, however, would involve the erection of new buildings on a new location. He is also of opinion that some advantageous change might be made on the Pennsylvania system by discriminating between the old and hardened offender, and the young criminal who may be incarcerated for his first offense. The constant hope of pardon is alluded to as exercising an unhappy influence on the mind of the prisoner, and the Warden feels that if each prisoner could realize that there was little or no hope of pardon, there would be less trouble in discipline and more hope of reformation.

HEALTH OF THE PRISONERS.

Dr. Rankin reports the health of the prisoners as unusually good. There were two cases of small pox last summer, both of which were successfully treated. At present, only eleven are under treatment. Of the whole number received during the year, sixty were diseased at the time of admission. Sixty-six reported themselves intemperate, one hundred and three temperate, and fifty-three moderate drinkers. There is one case of supposed incurable insanity, and two of temporary mental disturbance, the result of self-abuse, which continued but a short time. Two deaths occurred during the year--one a mulatto, received with secondary syphilis, and died of peritonial inflammation, after a confinement of four years and a half. The other was a white man, who died of consumption after seven months' confinement. Of the one hundred and fifty-two discharged during the year, all but one left in improved health.

MORALS OF THE PRISONERS.

Rev. Thomas Crumpton, Moral Instructor, reports the moral and religious condition of the prisoners unchanged. The increased number of convicts is, in some degree, a hindrance to reformation, yet there has been no deterioration of character or conduct. Much attention has been paid to the instruction of the ignorant, and their progress in learning has been good, and their conduct in the school room commendable. The religious services are regarded with interest and professedly with profit. The books in the library are read with attention and delight.

STATISTICS.

Number in prison January 1, 1867	418
Received during the year	222
Total	640
Discharged during the year—	
By expiration	113
Pardon	34
Escape	5
Death	2—154
Number in prison January 1, 1868	486

Of the 486 now in prison, 178 are from Allegheny, 47 from Venango, 33 from Erie, 27 from the "United State s," 22 from Bedford, 17 from Crawford, 17 from Huntingdon, 18 from Fayette, 16 from Cambria, 15 from each of the counties of Washington, Warren and Westmoreland, and the balance from other western counties.

The great proportion of the prisoners are sentenced for terms under five years. Eleven are sentenced between ten and eleven years; nine between eleven and twelve; one for twenty-one; one for twenty-two; one for twenty-four; and one for twenty-nine years.

Of the 486 inmates now in prison, 215 were convicted of larceny; 28 of burglary; 10 of arson; 10 for aggravated assault and battery; 28 for horse stealing; 23 for murder; 19 for passing counterfeit money; 17 for rape, while all grades of crime are represented by the balance.

Of the 486, there were born in Pennsylvania, 215; New York, 48; Ohio, 16; Virginia, 18; Canada, 11; England, 20; Germany, 40; Ireland, 51; Scotland, 6; France, 4.

The educational and social condition is thus stated: No education, 67; read, 78; read and write, 341. Single, 271; married 187. Widowers, 27; widow, 1.

Of the 486, there are on first conviction, 440; second, 34; third, 6; fourth, 3; fifth, 1; eighth, 2.

The Times in Georgia.

A letter dated Atlanta, January 23d, contains the following: I have taken pains to inquire into the truth of the representations made to me concerning the distress and ruin of the planters. I am sorry to say that the more I investigate the more gloomy and painful are the accounts I hear. From every locality and from every interest the story is the same. The University which last year had upwards of 200 students, opened a few days ago with less than a hundred. At the schools and seminaries the same state of things exists. Parents have no money to educate their children. They have not enough to buy food and clothing. In the cities and towns trade is at a stand-still. Failures are of daily occurrence. Improvements and enterprises of all kinds have been stopped. In this city many fine blocks of buildings, which were in progress, and near completion, have been left unfinished, and the laborers dismissed. The owners are unable to finish them, and though they have expended hundreds of thousands of dollars thus far upon them, they sell them to-day for a tenth of what they cost. On every side bankruptcy and insolvency are to be found. No interest has escaped.

PERSONAL.

--As the result of a single appeal the congregation of Rev. R. L. Collier, in Chicago, on Sunday last raised $30,000 to get the church out of debt.

--James Mott, of Philadelphia, the husband of Lucretia Mott, died Sunday morning at the house of his son-in-law, George W. Lord, in Brooklyn. He was born in Manhasset, on Long Island, in 1788, and had reached the ripe age of four-score years.

--The neatest bit of pleasantry which the quarrel in England between the Evangelical churchmen and the Ritualists has given rise to is in the assertion made by the former party that "Eve before the fall was Eve-angelical, but afterwards took to vestments."

--At Paris every wealthy American is supposed to have made his money in petroleum speculations. John Jacob Astor was spoken of in the *Journal des Débats*, recently, as the first man in the country who engaged in the oil business.

--Those great artists, Ole Bull, Camille Urso, and Miss Topp, were together at a party the other evening. "You play beautifully, my child," said the Norwegian to Miss Topp; "but you can't do the great music. No woman can; it takes the biceps of a man." "My arm is not strong enough," answered the brilliant young pianist, laughing. I break my pianos as well as a man could, and Steinway has to send me a new one every week." "You see," responded Bull, turning to Madame Urso, you see how these people treat their pianos. They bang them, they beat them, they kick them, they smash them to pieces; but our fiddles! *how we love them!*"

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

The prevailing vanity in the way of dress for ladies is black velvet, heavily trimmed with lace. The contrast to this style is white silk; but those who dress expensively avoid variety as to colors. The ladies say there has never been such an exhibition of extravagance in the costly outlays for wardrobes; in affirmation of which the other sex bear strong corroborative testimony. But there is a want of cheerfulness in society that is inconsistent with the costly display. The routine of stately formality at all the gay assemblies imparts a dullness to them that is soothing.

Efforts will be made in Congress, very soon, to carry out the expansion policy in regard to our currency; but it is evident that, while the House may favor such measures, the Senate is doubtful, as it is known that the Finance Committee of that body is almost, if not quite unanimous in opposition to them.

Colorado will undoubtedly be admitted to the family of States by the present Congress, thus securing three more electors for Grant. All delusions are faded among the Deputy Officials of the Territory, and every department of the government appeals for admission--legislative, executive and judicial; and also the press, the bar, the merchants, the capitalists, the miners, and the politicians.

Hon. James Guthrie writes that he expects to be in Washington to take his seat as a Senator from Kentucky. It is stated that he would long since have resigned on account of ill health if he had not received the impression that he would be an open rebel. Guthrie is far from being a Radical, but does not conceal his dislike of the present rebel rulers of Kentucky.

Morals of the Revenue Service.

The Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial* relates the following: I heard a very thrilling narrative yesterday involving the morality of the Internal Revenue Department, and showing how very narrowly one of its traveling agents escaped a finely laid plot that had been laid for him. It was in this wise: A gentleman whom I shall call Smith, which is simply no name at all, was on a visit to the East to examine the books of the assessors and collectors of that region, under the direction of the Treasury Department, and report the result of his labors to the headquarters here. While he was in one of the cities, he made an acquaintance with the wife of an assessor, which ripened into intimacy very rapidly. The story is that the assessor was for years quite ignorant of what was going on at home while he was making up revenue returns in his office, was privy to it, and helped to make the arrangement. He and a few of his friends conceived the idea of depriving the wife of the Assessor's domestic virtue for the sake of compromising with the traveling agent for a few of the official irregularities of her husband. A scheme was finally agreed upon which I consider too diabolical to be true, but which, affording a better plot for a novel than is contained either in the Woman in White or Griffith Gaunt. The erring wife and the gay traveling agent were to go to the theater one evening, and on leaving to go to the assessor's mansion. Assessor not at home. Love and affection are declared between the two--and is being exemplified in full fruition when into the room bursts the outraged husband with a police force. Revenue agent is arrested. Trouble in store for him. Duel probable. Devil to pay certain. Friends interfere, however, and, after a great deal of negotiation, revenue agent can get off scot-free if he'll leave town and not examine the assessor's books any further. Agreed. All fixed up. Erring wife and defaulting husband make up. Husband keeps his place and wife hasn't lost her virtue. Hadn't much to lose. *Tableau.*

Now the above is what was to have happened in an Eastern city between an assessor and a revenue agent. That it did not occur is owing to the vigilance of a Brevet Brigadier General who, hearing of it in time, sent a friend to the traveling agent, about the conspiracy that was on foot for him, and saved him from the jaws of destruction. The General is my authority for what I have written.

Social Condition of England.

The London *Review* devotes its leading article for the new year to a retrospect and a confession. The confession is certainly candid: "At this time there is no country, no matter how embarrassed or how poor, in which there is so much pressing and painful poverty, so much vice, so much misery, as in England. We have failed with our lower classes to such an extent that in the country we find some of them working like cattle, fed and housed worse than cattle, while in the towns we do not know what to do with them until they are ripe for stripping into the confirmed vice and habit of crime. With all our wealth, and England is a wealthy country, we have not succeeded in distributing happiness or content in the proportion of which we could be sure. Nowhere do we find massed against us a gloomy and threatening spirit of insubordination, and a gathering of ominous elements, from which voices are heard, that having broken down in our task we should give it up with despair, and try all things. Criticism is no longer a function limited to one class. Our future masters begin to take stock and value of us.

"In that social life in which most of us are concerned, which may be placed above the reach of sordid wants, can we congratulate ourselves upon a distinct advance? Around us on all sides we learn of families living upon fictitious incomes, we find a rate of increase in the taste for luxuries so incommensurate with the means for getting them honestly, that people satisfy the craving with a recklessness which brings ruin upon them. Comfort is a word the meaning of which is lengthening out of appear. Every one desires to be rich, and those who are not rich keep up the pretense until the wolf is at the door."

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 29, 1868.

The upward tendency in Government securities which the market has manifested for the past few days received a slight check to-day, and the report from New York gives slightly lower figures. There has been a large "short" interest outstanding which, no doubt, has been mainly covered, but which has assisted to stimulate quotations and sustain a rise. The decline will only be temporary as the money market at the East is plethoric, and the rate for call loans is down to 4 per cent. Governments, as we remarked before, constitute a most convenient form of investment to employ any idle balances profitably.

--In the local market money is ruling much easier. The banks are taking most of the good paper offering, and there is quite a scarcity of acceptable paper on the outside market. Rates have abated and short dates are negotiated at about ten per cent.

--Stocks since last evening have advanced materially on account of the higher range of quotations established by that sale. It is a decided "bull" movement on a small scale, and it will be difficult to maintain such prices. Purchasers at such rates would be poorly compensated for the investment, but if they should succeed in getting off large amounts of other stocks at a much higher figure on account of this movement, it may result profitably in the long run.

--Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., bankers, report the following quotations for governments as received from Jay Cooke & Co., their New York correspondents:--U. S. 6s 1881, 111¾@; U. S. 5-20s, '62, 111¼@; do '64, 109; do '65, May and November, 109¾@; do '65, January and July, 107¾@; U. S. 10-40s, 104; May 1865, Compounds, 117¾@; June 7-30s, 107⅝@; July 7-30s, 107⅝@; Gold, 140⅜@; 5-20s, 1867, 107⅝@.

Messrs. James T. Brady & Co., bankers, report the following rates for governments today:--Gold, 141¼@; U. S. 6s, 1881, 111⅜@; U. S. 5-20s, 1862, 111; do 1864, 108⅜@; do 1865, 109⅝@; U. S. 10-40s, 104; U. S. 5-20s, January and July, 1865, 107⅛@; do 1867, 107⅛@; June 7-30s 107⅜@; July do, 107⅛@; May Compounds, 1865, 117¾@.

--Railway stocks are not so buoyant, and appear lower. The following shows the noon quotations at New York to-day: Michigan Southern, 88¾@; Cleveland and Pittsburgh 97⅝@; Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago, 103¾@; Erie, 75¼@; Chicago and Northwestern, 60½@.

--The following shows the totals of the average of the leading items of the Philadelphia Banks for the past and previous week:

	Last week.	This week.	
Capital	$16 017,150	$16,017,150	
Loans	53,013,196	52,325,599	Dec. $687,597
Specie	2,276,530	2,276,530	Inc. 1,581,560
Legal Tenders	16,827,428	16,836,937	Inc. 9,509
Deposits	54,171,468	54,696,140	Inc. 524,672
Due to banks	7,005,862	7,007,381	Inc. 838,178
Deposits	37,437,080	37,672,540	Dec. 144,540
Circulation	16,045,170	16,045,170	Inc. 3,674
Clearings	31,313 381	32,117,721	Inc. 803,840
Balance	3,012,774	3,041,750	Dec. 141,750

The statement of the bank averages for the past week is not as favorable as was expected. It will be observed that, according to the return, while the liabilities, included in the items of due to banks, deposits and circulation, have decreased $689,253, the cash resources in coin and legal tenders have decreased $1,032,-071.

--At Cincinnati, the *Gazette* reports the money market a little more active, but still rules easy at 8@10 per cent., with a fair supply of currency and only moderate offerings of paper from depositors. As bankers are generally confining their attention exclusively to paper offered by their own depositors, there is not the usual proportion of capital in the open market available for investment in outside offerings, and rates are firmer, at 12 per cent. for first class and 15 per cent. for good mercantile paper

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 29, 1868. }

Our general markets continue without much life, and prices are without material change from those last reported. There is a fair trade doing in the best brands of flour. There is very little doing in grain of any kind. There is more inquiry for oats, however, at last quotations. Provisions are dull, affording a better plot for a novel than is contained either in the Woman in White or Griffith Gaunt. The erring wife and the gay traveling agent were to go to the theater one evening, thence to Jerome's, and on leaving to go to the assessor's mansion. Assessor not at home. Love and affection are declared between the two--and is being exemplified in full fruition when into the room bursts the outraged husband with a police force. Revenue agent is arrested. Trouble in store for him. Duel probable. Devil to pay certain. Friends interfere, however, and, after a great deal of negotiation, revenue agent can get off scot-free if he'll leave town and not examine the assessor's books any further. Agreed. All fixed up. Erring wife and defaulting husband make up. Husband keeps his place and wife hasn't lost her virtue. Hadn't much to lose. *Tableau.*

We quote as follows, which are the wholesale store prices, unless otherwise noted:

APPLES--There is a fair demand for choice apples at $4 00@5 00 ₱ bbl, as to quality and quantity purchased.

ASHES--There is a fair jobbing demand at 12c for pearls; 5¾c for refined, and 4½c for common soda ash.

BACON, LARD, ETC--There is a moderate trade doing and we quote S.C. Hams 16c; shoulders 10½c; sides 12c; S.C. Breakfast bacon is c@ried beef in clear in tierces 13¾c, and lard in kegs and buckets 14½c ₱ lb. This shows an advance in lard, with more firmness reported in the market. We have closed of 13 packages of country lard at 12¾@13c ₱ lb.

LARD OIL--Market steady at $1 10 for No. 1, and 87c ₱ gallon for No. 2.

BUTTER--Receipts are very light with a good demand for choice roll. We quote at 40@42c ₱ lb. A fair article can be bought at 35@40c ₱ lb.

EGGS--We note sales at 28@30c ₱ dozen of choice fresh. Receipts are very light

BEANS--Choice sales of small white beans are selling at $3 25 ₱ bush from store.

CHEESE--There is very little demand, and we quote Goshen at 18c ₱ lb; Factory 17c, and Hamburg at 14½c ₱ lb.

DRIED FRUITS--Choice dried apples are selling slowly at 8c ₱ lb, and choice peaches (halves) at 10@ 11½c ₱ lb.

CRANBERRIES--Market dull at $12 00 for cultivated and $10 ₱ barrel for common.

HOPS--Choice hops are firmer. We quote Wisconsin at 80c; Bavarian at 90c, and New York at 90@95c ₱ lb, as to quality.

SEED--Market dull for nearly all kinds of seed, with the exception of flax seed, which is in demand at $2 ₱ bushel. Clover seed is quoted at $8 00@9 00 ₱ bushel, as to quality. No reported transactions in Timothy seed.

HAY--The receipts of loose timothy hay from country wagons are more liberal, and prices show a shade lower. We note sales at $18 00@21 00 ₱ ton, as to quality.

GRAIN--The receipts of barley are light, with reported sales of spring in small lots in depot at $1 85 ₱ bush. No fall on the market. Rye is a little more active and firmer at $1 40@1 45 ₱ bushel. Oats are in fair receipt, and selling in depot at 64@65c ₱ bushel; from wagons at 60@63c ₱ bushel, and from store at 65c ₱ bushel. There is very little doing in wheat, excepting to the millers, who are paying for white wheat $2 60@2 65, and for red winter wheat $2 50@2 55 ₱ bushel.

FLOUR--There is a fair trade doing, but principally for the best brands of spring and for the medium grades of winter wheat flour. The demand for articles termed "fancy brands" has fallen off. We quote choice brands of spring wheat flour at $11@11 25; medium grades at $10 50@10 50; medium brands of winter $11 25@11 50, and choice white wheat flour $12 50 ₱ bbl. We annex the schedule of prices of a variety of brands as furnished by one of our leading houses.

T. C. Jenkins's prices, wholesale flour dealer, 66 and 68 Liberty street:

Dayton Snow Flake, white winter	$12 50
Grant's O. K., white winter	12 00
Snow Drifts, in bags	12 00
Jenkins's Eclipse, winter	12 00
Bellflower, white winter	11 50
Jenkins's Lilly Mills	11 25
Pilgrimage, Jenkins's	11 00
Farina, spring choice	11 00
Akron City, spring choice	11 00
Shellbark Brands	$9 50@10 00
Favorite, Peru, Ind	11 25

Parties wanting flour at these prices must make prompt payment.

Groceries.

Business more active this week, with prices well maintained. Liquidation of speculative stocks in the East, which we noticed last week, have added to the value of Rice, and strictly choice Carolina is now held firmly at 12½c. Sweets are firmer and holders are not disposed to sell in large lots. Coffee better; the article having advanced ¼c gold value about ¼ to ⅝c ₱ lb for choice; low grades are easier.

We quote:

COFFEE--Old Government Java, in bags, 37c; in bond, 36c; Laguayra, 26@28c; Rio, choice 26c; prime, 25c; good, 23c; roasting, 20@22c.

SUGARS--Porto Rico, 16c; Cuba, 13¾@15c; Sugar House, 11½@12½c; Granulated, 17¾c; Powdered, 17½c; Crushed, 17¾c; A. Coffee, 16¾c; B do, 16¼c; extra C, 16c; C 15½; New Orleans 14¼@15c.

MOLASSES--New Orleans, 85@90c; Porto Rico, 70@ 80c; Cuba, 60@70c; Demerara, 82c.

SYRUP--Lovering's, $1 00; other choice brands, $1 00; fair to good, 90c@$1.

TEAS--Young Hyson, common to finest, 90c@ $ 1 85; Imperial and Gunpowder, do, $1 25@2 00; Japan, 90c@$1 25; Oolong, 90c@$1 75.

RICE--Carolina, 12½c; Rangoon, 10½@11½c.

VINEGAR--Pure white wine vinegar, in original packages, 75c; common 25@30c.

FISH--No. 1 Shore Mackerel, $18@19; No. 2 Shore, $16; No. 1 Bay do, $20; No. 2 Bay do, $15; No. 3 large do, $12 50@13 00; Salmon, $25; Herring, $3 75; White Fish, $6 75. Codfish, 8@9c ₱ lb.

SODA--English Bicarb 9c. American 8c.

SPICES--Pimento, 35c; Pepper, 38c; Cloves, 45c; Nutmegs, $1 60; Cassia, 80c.

SOAP--Wickham, Van Haagen & Co.'s Chemical Olive, 11½c; Babbett's, 11½c; Oakley's, 11c.

LYE--Concentrated Lye, $7 25.

CANDLES--Proctor & Gamble's star candles, 26c for full weight.

INDIGO--Madras 90c@$1 50; Manilla 90c@$1 45.

BAR LEAD--12½c.

DROP SHOT--13c.

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PITTSBURGH DRUG MARKET.

OFFICE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } FRIDAY January 31, 1868. }

Acet.					
Acetic	lb	31	@	34	
Citric	lb	95	@	1 00	
Muriatic	lb	3	@	5	
Tartaric	lb	80	@	85	
Alcohol gall		4 00	@	4 10	
Aloes.					
Cape	lb	28	@	31	
Socot	lb	95	@	1 05	
Am. Carb	lb	27	@	29	
Organ	lb	10	@	14	
Annotta	lb	90	@	100	
Ashes Pearl	lb	12	@	13½	
Soda	lb	4½	@	5½	
Bal. Copaib		1 05	@	1 12	
Balsam Fir	lb	55	@	6 00	
Bark.					
Cassia	lb	86	@	88	
Cinch'd	lb	2 10	@	2 20	
" Yel	lb	1 75	@	1 80	
" Com	lb	45	@	50	
Black Lead					
Bichrom	lb	5	@	6	
East Ind	lb	13	@	18	
German	lb	2½	@	3	
Blue Mass	lb	64	@	66	
Blue Vitr	lb	12	@	14	
Borax ref	lb	37	@	40	
Brimstone	lb	6½	@	7	
" Flor Sul	lb	6¾	@	7¾	
Calomel		1 13	@	1 18	
Camphor	lb	1 05	@	1 10	
Camp ref	lb	1 20	@	1 25	
Cantha'r	lb	2 05	@	2 10	
Cham. Germ	lb	28	@	30	
Cream T	lb	60	@	65	
Chlorof'm	lb	2 05	@	2 15	
Cloves	lb	48	@	50	
Cochineal	lb	45	@	50	
Conj'e cake		7 00	@	7 25	
Copp'ras bbl		2 75	@	3 00	
Cream Tart'r	lb	38	@	50	
Cubebs	lb	44	@	48	
Cudbear	lb	35	@	40	
Emery Emb	lb	13	@	15	
Epsom Salts	lb	3	@	4	
" Sulph	lb	1 21	@	1 30	
Ext Log	lb	13½	@	14	
" Liq Calx		41	@	45	
" Yellow	lb	75	@	80	
" Sicily		25	@	28	
Fustic ch	lb	3½	@	4½	
Gallic Acid	lb	50	@	55	
Gum.					
Arabic str	lb	53	@	58	
" White	lb	85	@	1 00	
Myrrh	lb	67	@	72	
Opium	lb	6 50	@	6 75	
Trag'a str	lb	50	@	55	
" Flake	lb	1 50	@	1 60	
Hoffm's Anod	lb	85	@	90	
Indigo Madr	lb	90	@	1 00	
" Spun	lb	1 10	@	1 15	
Iodine resub	lb	7 30	@	7 50	
Iodoform	lb	7	@	8	
Lup clnd	lb	3	@	4	
Magn'a	lb	1 03	@	1 06	
Madder	lb	14	@	16	
Magnesia	lb	35	@	40	
" Carb	lb	50	@	55	
Manna S'F	lb	1 28	@	1 33	
Morph sul	lb	2 75	@	2 80	
Nutm No1	lb	1 58	@	1 63	
Oil					
Bergamot	lb	8 00	@	11 50	
Cassia	lb	2 50	@	2 75	
Cinnam	lb	4 90	@	5 15	
Cloves	lb	4 10	@	4 40	
Codliver gal		2 75	@	2 80	
Lemon	lb	4 00	@	4 50	
Lard	gal	1 92	@	2 00	
Linseed	gal	98	@	1 15	
Neat's foot	gal	1 35	@	1 40	
Naval stl	gal	1 55	@	1 45	
Olive	gal	2 50	@	3 00	
—quarts	do	7 75	@	15 00	
—pints	doz	4 85	@	8 00	
Origan	lb	80	@	1 00	
Peppert	lb	6 50	@	7 00	
Rosemary	lb	1 50	@	2 25	
Sassafras	lb	1 20	@	1 30	
Sperm	gal	2 25	@	2 50	
Tanners	gal	85	@	90	
Whale	gal	1 10	@	1 20	
Wintergn	lb	6 00	@	6 50	
Opium	lb	11 25	@	11 50	
Phosphor	lb	1 20	@	1 30	
Pit's Canada	lb	5 00	@	5 50	
Putty.					
Bichrom	lb	21	@	23	
Chlorate	lb	56	@	60	
Iodide	lb	5 95	@	6 15	
Prus yel	lb	45	@	47	
" Red	lb	1 05	@	1 10	
Putty	lb	5½	@	6	
Quicksilv	gal	2 00	@	2 40	
Rosin	bbl	6 50	@	6 75	
Root.					
Alkanet	lb	27	@	28	
Ginger Ir	lb	27	@	30	
Jalap	lb	41	@	43	
Ipecac	lb	4 25	@	4 50	
Jalap	lb	2 60	@	2 70	
Rhubarb	lb	1 50	@	1 60	
Rhub E I	lb	3 30	@	3 50	
Sarsapa'a	lb	37	@	40	
Senega	lb	55	@	60	
Valer'n Eng	lb	60	@	65	
" Germ	lb	35	@

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1868.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty, per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

CIVILIAN PRESIDENTS.

The allegation has been, and is frequently made, that military men as such, that Generals distinguished in war are special favorites with the American people. Perhaps many honestly entertain the notion that military glory is an important element of availability in a candidate for high office in this country. The charge, if true, is a grave disparagement of our popular intelligence; the allegation, whether just or not, is surely no flattering compliment to us as a nation, capable of governing and taking care of ourselves. In the New York *Tribune* of the 21st inst., there is an article, the object of which is to show the falseness of this damaging charge. Passing in review all our Presidential elections, from the choice of WASHINGTON to the choice of LINCOLN inclusive, the article makes it perfectly clear that the facts of these great contests afford neither foundation nor color for any such idea. It would be difficult to abridge the article, and its cogency depends so much upon the array of single facts, that neither one, two nor three extracts would convey to our readers any adequate notion of the argument. We merely indicate two or three of its points. WASHINGTON was unquestionably an eminent soldier, and had by his military talents conferred inestimable benefits on his country. But, says the *Tribune* "It would be the deepest insult to the memory of WASHINGTON to assert that he was not nominated from his known statesmanship, and his vigorous and commanding position as a leader in civil affairs." His peaceful services, particularly in connection with the formation of the Constitution, are then mentioned. All the Presidents, from WASHINGTON to JACKSON, not one of whom possessed sufficient martial reputation to excite popular interest, were elected over military candidates of some distinction gained in war. In 1825 JACKSON, the warrior, was defeated by ADAMS, a civilian. In 1828 JACKSON was elected. But JACKSON had spent most of his life in the pursuits of peace; had been prominent in the Southwest as a writer and speaker; had been District Attorney of Tennessee while it was a territory; had been one of the framers of its Constitution; had been a member of the House of Representatives and of the Senate of the United States and a Justice of the Supreme Court of his State, all before the year 1800, and therefore before he had acquired a single laurel in war. In 1836 HARRISON the general, was beaten by VAN BUREN, a mere civilian. In 1840, HARRISON was elected President, but JOHN TYLER, who had never fought so much as a duel, was elected Vice President over RICHARD M. JOHNSON, somewhat distinguished in war, and confidently believed to have killed TECUMSEH. In 1852, PIERCE, not a soldier of renown, indeed hardly able to ride a war-horse, was elected over General SCOTT, a grand and most successful soldier. In 1856, Mr. BUCHANAN, who is not known to have ever commanded even a company of militia on review day, and whose only conquests had been made in the forum and at the bar, defeated Colonel FREMONT, U. S. A. In 1860, Mr. LINCOLN was nominated and elected over each and all the eminent soldiers with whom, at that time, almost every city and every village in the land were "blossoming." To go back, we may affirm in reference to the election of General HARRISON, and even of General TAYLOR, that the martial glory of neither was the chief cause of his success. The former was known to have, through life, been a student of history and politics, who had given evidence of his acquisitions in both, by published dissertations and by filling high civil appointments. The latter was believed to possess, in a high degree, certain attributes of character, not peculiar to the soldier, which seemed to point him out as the man for the high place to which he was elected.

In view of these most significant facts, we may confidently deny that the American people are at all open to the odious charge of predisposition to distinguish with peculiar favor military men as such, and irrespective of their civil qualifications. No! When the people fix upon a distinguished soldier as their candidate for the highest office in their gift, they are not childishly dazzled by military glory. Americans could and no doubt would admire and applaud a MURAT, but make him their ruler in admiration of his flashing sword and curvetting horse, or even of his mastery in military combination—never! This great intelligent people must be assured by indications of character and sagacity that the eminent general is something besides—that he possesses the endowments of a statesman as well. This we believe is their conviction at the present time in reference to General GRANT. As yet nominated by no convention, pointed out as the right man by no individual of commanding influence; from all sections and angles of the land voices are raised and hands directed to designate this most modest, unpretending, silent soldier as the person to complete, in a new sphere of activity, the work which is waiting to be done. There is something very remarkable sometimes in the evolution of the popular thought. It is a just remark made long ago, that in our daily talk we habitually employ words and phrases full of a wisdom which we do not recognise; in our language we are wise beyond the intention of our thought. The meaning of this is, that in the words used by the individual is embodied the wisdom of masses of men, of whole nations. We may, if we please, call it the instinct of the multitude; and where a whole nation is interested in a question, or a selection of doubtful settlement, we may safely confide in and follow this instinct. Its dictates or suggestions are the outcome of the collective wisdom or good sense of millions. This, doubtless, is the meaning of the venerable proverb which identifies the voice of the people with the voice of the Highest. In the widely extended and strong feeling or conviction of which General GRANT is the object, we think we hear "the common sense of most" pointing to him as the leader capable of carrying on to a peaceful and happy arrangement and permanent adjustment the affairs which fret and agitate us so much and so seriously threaten our future. And surely there is much in General GRANT's career to warrant and justify these hopes. We have space barely to indicate one or two of the matters to which we refer. We leave out of view his achievements in war, except one consideration suggested by them, and that is the vast mental power or intellectual grasp implied in the formation of several of the plans by which the rebellion was put down. Freely admitting the aid he received from the officers about him, still we presume that not one of them will deny to the General more than ordinary faculty of organization and combination. Then reflect what admirable powers of mind and what fine attributes of character must have existed in the man who negotiated LEE's surrender, so as to end the war without leaving any of "the dregs" by which war is usually followed. The whole South almost immediately disarmed. Greater admiration is, perhaps, due to the diplomatic skill by which the evil effects of General SHERMAN's arrangement with JOHNSTON were corrected or arrested. Then reflect what remarkable combination of mental and moral qualities must have been united in the man who was able to control, harmonize and use the men of various talents and dispositions, over whom he was placed as their chief. Constantly controlling and, no doubt, sometimes snubbing them, they appear to have performed their respective parts cheerfully and well. GRANT so bore himself that all agree in generous recognition of his abilities and worth. The great military financier we had forgotten, and must except. General GRANT's whole course since the close of the war, if impartially regarded, must make an impression decidedly in his favor. The ability with which he has, in Washington, fulfilled the duties of his own proper place, has never been questioned, we believe. Called suddenly to the War Department, he entered upon and performed its duties as if they had been long familiar to him. He not only did all that could be expected of him, but initiated and carried out important reforms.

He was, while there, not a mere *locum tenens;* every department of the service felt his presence and was affected by his influence. And this is merely saying what has been true of him in all the positions in which he has been placed. He has ever appeared, not only equal to all, but fit for all. However difficult or embarrassing they may have been, he has maintained himself in them with the calm and steady confidence of a man conscious of having been often and severely tried, and of having never failed to meet the requirements and expectations of the hour. In view of all these considerations, we think that the *Tribune* article utterly fails in its object. The American people we believe prepared to make GRANT their President, not because he is a great soldier, but because they believe him endowed in large measure with with all the qualities of head and heart which our highest functionary must possess in view of the difficult crisis in our history through which he is expected to conduct us.

HUMANITY GROWS.

The word development and the idea it stands for have been so misused and abused as to excite prejudice. First came those philosophers, so called, who, in the morning twilight of the French Revolution, declared man's susceptibility of indefinite improvement, and announced his ultimate perfection on earth. Then were called to mind, elaborated and diffused, the speculations of those more worthy thinkers of different ages, who saw germ, growth, and bloom in every living thing, from the humblest plant to man, in both his individual and collective characters. In their view, whatever does not grow—whatever is not susceptible of development—is either dead or moribund, and doomed to speedy death. The theory having been applied to intellectual and moral systems, and even to the Christian Revelation, seemed to involve principles and consequences both offensive and alarming to reverential and sensitive minds. It seemed to cast the shadow of defect over the ideal of eighteen hundred years ago—to hint the charge of possible crudity against the loftiest ideals of the present—and to suggest the likelihood that the most confident dogmatists and most devoted worshippers of the passing day are contending for ghostly unrealities and bowing down before exemplars whom the men of the future may regard with little reverence. However injudicious some of these speculations may have been, or however legitimate may be the prejudice or disapproval with which they are regarded by many, we ought still to try to see and grasp whatever truth they may contain. Examination will show that these imprudent philosophers frequently set out from or on the hint of very ancient truths. Their use or application of them by introducing them into bad company have thrown a shade over their respectability, and made them objects of suspicion. However mischievous the doctrine of development may prove when treated in a certain way, it is undoubtedly true that in the light of history an "increasing purpose" may be traced through the ages from the beginning, and that the sympathies as well as the thoughts of men are quickened and widened from age to age.

Christianity when introduced into the world, was a new light, and its shining was seen and felt from afar. Its general effect was speedily obvious in transforming and elevating the minds and characters of multitudes and nations. But neither at the beginning nor for many centuries afterwards did even the most enlightened, or thoughtful of the professors of the new creed grasp or appropriate and apply either to themselves or to society the full import of the symbol. Still less were the entire significance and energy of their acknowledged Exemplar understood and felt. Centuries had to elapse, innumerable battles in the fields of controversy and in the fields of war had to be fought, and vast regions of thought and fact had to be explored for needful knowledge, before the Christian world attained to a proper consciousness of the mere meaning of its name. Had the activity of JOHN HOWARD been expended in the seventeenth, or in any preceding century, it would probably have been almost wasted, perhaps he would have made little impression. We may be pretty sure that neither reform of prisons, nor reform of criminal law, would have been its result. He explored the prisons of his own country and of continental Europe, in the latter half of the eighteenth century, when Christian men everywhere were prepared to comprehend and appreciate his labors in their motives and their bearing, and hence the wonderful effects which have followed them. To-day, in Pittsburgh, the momentum of his life is felt by some as a stimulus to benevolent exertions, and by many others in the relief of their distresses.

A single fact will frequently illustrate a principle or an abstract statement better than a page or a volume of rhetorical amplification. Our readers are probably familiar with the low state of humane feeling prevalent in England until a comparatively recent period; they may be less aware of its state in France. Of this we have a remarkable illustration in the letters of Madame DE SEVIGNE. These letters were written, as our readers know, in the latter half of the seventeenth century, and are the most perfect reflection we possess of the Christian civilization and social refinement of that great age of France. The DUC DE CHAULNES was Governor of Brittany. The poor people of Rennes having gathered together in too great numbers, on account of some grievance, real or imaginary, the Governor attempted to disperse them by his presence. He was not popular among them—and instead of scattering, they drove him to his palace—calling him "a big hog," and then flung stones into his garden. A M. DE FORBIN arrived on the ground with 6,000 soldiers. The poor people, as soon as they see the royal troops, disperse through the fields, and when arrested fall on on their knees, begging for mercy. Twenty-five or thirty of them are seized at a venture, that is without scrutiny as to guilt or innocence, and are hanged. A whole street of Rennes is depopulated, that is all the people, old and young, sick and well, are driven from their homes, and all are forbidden to entertain them under pain of death. The officers in charge of the job go on breaking on the wheel and *quartering* until they get tired, and then they try hanging as a change. We learn that these poor wretches, most of them, suffered for the guilty who escaped, and that even the guilty ought to have been looked upon rather as ignorant than criminal. Madame DE SEVIGNE was not only a delightful letter writer, but one of the best ladies of her time in every way. "Her goodness," says St. BEUVE "was equal to her beauty and her grace." And yet she relates all these horrors, not only without any expression of reprobation, but has much sympathy for the disturbance and inconvenience brought upon her friend the Duke DE CHAULNES. She writes: "The rebels of Rennes have escaped some time ago; so the good will suffer for the bad; however, I find it all well enough, if the four thousand soldiers at Rennes under Messieurs FORBIN and DE VINS do not prevent me from walking among my trees, which are of wonderful height and beauty." In another passage she even mentions the hanging (*penderie*) in the way of jest. Verily, we may say, times have changed, and minds and manners with them.

AT a meeting of the Republican State Committee, held in Harrisburg on Wednesday, the 22d inst., after a full conference Wednesday, March the 11th, was selected as the day, and the city of Philadelphia the place, for holding the State Convention to nominate candidates for Auditor General and Surveyor General, and to select four delegates at large to the National Republican Convention. It will be the duty of the county committees to give the usual notice for electing county delegates.

COL. SCOTT'S FREE RAILROAD AMENDMENTS.

We understand our Harrisburg correspondents to say that Col. SCOTT has abandoned the odious features of the LANDON Railroad Bill of last year. We fear that one of his reported amendments is designed to accomplish the objects aimed at last year, to wit: To prevent any new railroads being built as competitors to his own road. This amendment, as we are informed, is to the effect that every railroad to be built under the new bill must have of *paid up cash stock* the full amount of debt they can ever contract. Now, we admit that it would be exceedingly convenient if all business was done on the cash basis. Probably nine-tenths of the now successful business men of Pittsburgh commenced life on a very small amount of cash capital, their brains, enterprise and industry making up the balance. Why impose unnecessary restrictions on Railroads? The mortgagees or bondholders who loan money to Railroad Companies are generally sharp enough to take care of their own interests. Why not leave them to be the judges? Certainly not one of all the improvements of Western Pennsylvania (the Pennsylvania Road excepted) was or probably could have been constructed on this rigid system. The Monongahela Navigation Company was mainly built on its mortgage bonds. The Erie Canal was entirely constructed and to this day is owned by its bondholders. The Chicago and Cleveland Railroads, prior to their reorganization a few years since, had three dollars of bonded debt to every one of stock. The Allegheny Valley Railroad would not to-day be open beyond Kittanning if this rigid rule had been adhered to. The main line of the Pennsylvania road was, we admit, built in this manner, but the most of its fifteen or twenty branches have been built upon bonds. The road from Allegheny City to Freeport was built entirely upon its bonds. So, too, is it proposed to build the Chartiers Valley. In looking into the railroad reports of last year, we find several roads in which Col. SCOTT is a director, whose bonds largely exceed their capital stock. Now, if the Colonel practices on the other theory, why does he want to restrict the Free Railroad Bill in this respect? Are not contractors and capitalists able to judge for themselves what railroad companies they can trust? Probably three-fourths of the railroads constructed in this State at the time of their completion have had four-fifths of the capital that built them in mortgage bonds, convertible into stock at the option of the holder. Whenever the business of the road has demonstrated it to be a success, these bonds are then changed into stock. We wish to see the same latitude allowed to roads constructed under this new system that was allowed under the old. Capitalists will see to their own security before loaning their money to railroad corporations. Colonel SCOTT need not trouble himself on their behalf. We very much fear that he is mainly anxious to prevent the building of new roads in competition to his own. The plausible Vice President may reproduce the story of the Trojan horse. *Timeo Danoes ferentes.* His amendments will bear the closest scrutiny which our Free Railroad friends at Harrisburg can give them. We do not say that all of them should be rejected. He has had large experience in the construction and management of railroads. We do not mistrust him any more than we would any other plausible man, having a possible motive antagonistic to the public. He may, however, have an "ax to grind" that the members of the Legislature have not had exhibited to them.

EVERY MAN HIS OWN BANKER.

Probably all our readers by this time are familiar with the circumstances of the BENNINGHOFF robbery case. If anything in the developments of human nature could seem strange to one who has lived a few years in the world, we might be surprised at the fact that any rational man would keep so large a sum of money in his house. The man BENNINGHOFF chose to be his own Banker, it seems. He may have been led to this by want of confidence in his fellowmen. His motive may have been the desire to have his vast possessions convenient for inspection. His money may have been his household deity, and if so, religion required that its chapel and shrine should be in his dwelling. We read even in very ancient authors of those who found in the contemplation of their treasures hoarded at home full indemnification and abundant consolation for whatever mortifications and rebuffs they might experience abroad in intercourse with their fellow men. We read of one such who was wont to say, even in regard to the small disbursements for daily uses, that it was "sweet to take from a big heap." This man surely was not the proprietor of several oil wells yielding $20,000 a month. Of course we know nothing of the character of the man near Petroleum Center, and have no desire to assign him a character, or to injure him in any way. It was very common at one time, and may be so still among the German farmers of the eastern part of our State—in Lebanon and Berks counties for instance—to retain their yearly gains in their own houses. The safes of these men were often old stockings. On return from market, where the farmer had sold his beef, or his pork, or his grain, the proceeds were deposited in the stocking, and when one had been filled, another was taken and applied to the same purpose. In this manner were accumulated funds sufficient to add field to field and farm to farm. It is only fair to add that few of these men could fairly be described as misers. Many of them were generally close and saving. Economical they were nearly all—but without "the miser's cursed love of gold." We may, perhaps, distribute them into two or three classes. Some were moved to adopt this mode of taking care of their gains by distrust of mankind. They were unwilling to confide their money to men, who might run away with or squander it. Others were influenced by the dislike or fear of gold bred by gold, common among the peasantry of Germany two hundred years ago. All interest was believed to be included in the scriptural denunciations against usury. In the minds of some of those Germans was added a pietistic fear of committing sin by allowing their money to beget other money. We may be quite certain that the present generation of descendants of those farmers regard the views and proceedings of their fathers in this matter as errors of ignorance. Even usury was long ago removed from the catalogue of sins by the arguments of JEREMY BENTHAM, and to keep a considerable sum of money in one's house for any motive, is very foolish and exceedingly perilous.

FRIENDLESS INSANE.

It is surprising when one thinks of it that a christian people—or even a people of much humanity of feeling—do not show more active interest than we show in the friendless insane of our commonwealth. In all parts of the country are men and women stricken with the loss of reason, whose friends are too poor to employ adequate attendance for them. Some of them are left to wander about or die by the wayside when death kindly overtakes them. More frequently, however, they are confined in jails, where no provisions have been made for their care and treatment, and where some of them are permitted to perish under circumstances truly pitiful. A kind master would hardly allow his disabled horse, or diseased dog, to be subject to the hardships which some of these unfortunate human creatures thus suffer. Others are placed for safe-keeping and maintenance in poor houses. The condition of these is seldom much more comfortable or proper than the condition of those confined in jails. An address has recently been issued by the State Medical Society of Pennsylvania, for the purpose of directing attention to this most important subject. It is stated that the whole number of the insane in the State amounts to about 2,500. Of these our existing hospitals have not accommodations for more than 2,000, and the remaing fifteen hundred are left uncared for in any becoming or decent way. We have already said that some of them are lodged in jails. Others of them find entertainment in poor houses. The State Medical Society Report speaks of them as follows: "Some are confined in rooms, small and close, with no means of admitting a proper supply of fresh air, either summer or winter, and being in the basement, are often extremely cold in winter, and exceedingly uncomfortable at all times; others in rooms exposed to the idle gaze of every passer-by, and too often their excitement is aggravated by the unfeeling taunts and reproaches of the vicious and heedless; males and females in adjoining and often in opposite rooms, even in that state of excitement when they will wear no clothing, and have only the covering of a blanket or quilt, and that not used probably except during a small part of the day or night, with the doors of the rooms so arranged with lattice work or openings that any one can look in at pleasure." The report describes still others as "confined in small rooms built for them where they remain constantly, their food being passed in to them through a small opening left for the purpose, and no means of exercise offered them." We are also told that in some poor-houses the "insane are bound with a chain attached to the ankle and fastened to a staple in the floor, allowing only a few feet of motion around a fixed point." All this is surely very dreadful. And however dreadful, the Christian people of this rich Commonwealth are responsible for the whole fearful state of things described in this report. The State Medical Society have certainly merited the thanks of all by their timely and much needed interposition in behalf of our neglected insane. We trust too that more than thanks, that immediate and energetic action will be called forth by the Report. It recommends the erection of two new hospitals—one for each of two sets of counties specified. Our portion of the State is not embraced in this suggestion. We must add that nowhere is there more urgent need for additional asylum accommodations for the class of insane referred to, than in the part of the State in which we live. We could report instances of suffering from this want in our own county, that would surprise and distress many of our readers.

IF we mistake not there are before the State Senate some resolutions designed to instruct our Senators and Representatives in Congress in favor of the financial ideas of Gen. BUTLER and Mr. PENDLETON. Independent of the merits of the policy of those gentlemen, we feel like suggesting that there are many other qestions which have a more legitimate claim on the Republican members, who are the majority in both branches of the State Legislature. We are not quite sure that our friends in Congress stand much in need of advice, even though any there were so wise as to give it of a character that would be of the slightest service. At any rate, the financial question belongs to Congress; and as a rule we think our State Legislature can safely allow all purely national questions to remain with that body, until, at least, it has shown itself incompetent, and some other has proved its peculiar adaptation to the difficult task. We think, therefore, that our Legislature cannot make a better disposition of the aforesaid resolutions than postponing the consideration of them until everything legitimately requiring its attention has been disposed of—say the Fourth of July.

THE expectation seems to be quite generally entertained that the anti-contraction law will have an immediate effect beneficial to the business and finances of the country, as much perhaps because it fixes the policy of the country and dispels the doubts which have existed in this regard, as the stoppage of the contraction of the currency. For, what is needed most is stability—some sort of assurance which will stimulate confidence and start business. Better than anything else could do it, will the anti-contracting law accomplish this most desirable object; and already is there a cheerful look ahead as the result of this wise and timely legislation. On this point the Philadelphia *North American* comments in the following hopeful language:

"We consider the passage of the present bill as one of the best measures of relief that Congress could have hit upon. It will save us forty-eight millions of dollars of interest every fifteen, which is generally estimated at eight per cent., and which would, therefore, be three millions eight hundred and forty thousand dollars a year, making the total saving nearly fifty-two millions. Existing taxation will more than suffice to have filled all plans for consolidating the debt in new forms, and for extinguishing the enormous waste millions of dollars in operations that offer us no advantage whatever. As Sherman, father of the bill, has professed his failure to understand his bill. We are, therefore, very decidedly making a wise and the great work of retrenchment and restoring confidence in our finances."

EX-CHIEF JUSTICE WOODWARD, of this State, has made a speech in Congress, taking sides against Mr. PENDLETON on the financial question. He repudiates repudiation. He goes back to the old doctrine of PENDLETON and the Democratic party, and maintains that greenbacks are an illegal issue and can be defended only on the ground of a War necessity, which no longer exists. So far, therefore, from agreeing with the PENDLETON-BUTLER doctrine of paying everything in green backs, he reiterates the opinion that Congress has no power to make greenbacks a legal-tender. The Ex-Chief Justice, who is now recognised as one of the head-lights of the Democratic party, has much to say on the financial question generally; but we make this reference to his speech because it establishes for a certainty the line drawn right through the Democratic party by the issue raised by Mr. PENDLETON—a matter that concerns us far less than the aforesaid Democracy.

A WASHINGTON letter printed in the Chicago *Tribune* expresses the belief that both Secretetary MCCULLOCH and Commissioner ROLLINS desire to lift the revenue department from politics and stop the flood of fraud; but they are overruled by the President, and "hampered by his stubborn purpose to bend everything he can to the support of his policy." We are glad to record this testimony to the elevated purpose of the Secretary and his inferior, and have only to hope that in such a conflict they may succeed. The correspondent adds:

The country doesn't yet half comprehend Andrew Johnson. His freaks of passion, his aggressive egotism, his petty malice—all this is seen far and wide; but his method of anger, his sleepless and untiring determination, his steady and fixed purpose to debauch every branch of the public service, if need be, in order to carry out his political aims—this is not yet even outside of Washington by very many persons. I am fully persuaded that we shall have only disgrace and fraud and corruption, especially in the Revenue Department, while the Johnson administration continues.

BY the foreign mails we learn that the dissatisfaction felt with the late measures of the government has found expression in the electionsheld at Tours and Peronne. At Tours M. GOUIN was the official, or government candidate, and his competitor was M. HOUSSARD, who was avowedly hostile to recent acts of the present ruling power in France, and particularly to the new army bill. In the election the latter received a clear majority of 7,627 over his opponent. In Peronne, the result, though not so striking, was still decisive enough to show the change which has taken place in the popular sentiment within a short time. M. ESTOURMEL, the opposition or independent candidate, was elected by a majority of 302 over the nominee of the Prefect.

These facts will be interesting to all who watch the course of events in France.

NOTWITHSTANDING the efforts of Mr. JOHNSON and Gen. HANCOCK in Louisiana, the intelligence from that State leaves little doubt that the Republicans will be successful in the ensuing election, not only in carrying the new constitution, but in electing their State ticket. The Democrats, by which it is meant the late rebels generally, are thoroughly organized and have raised a considerable fund to use against the Republicans; and it is not disguised that the promise of more from the North has been given; but in spite of all this the friends of Freedom do not doubt that they will carry the State by a large majority.

THE New York Democratic leaders—the BELMONTS, SEYMOURS and CAGGERS—have become somewhat alarmed at the progress made by Mr. PENDLETON in the race for the Presidential nomination. And it is understood that they have determined that whatever else happens he shall not succeed. These are the politicians who nominated MCCLELLAN and permitted PENDLETON to be associated with him on the ticket. That MCCLELLAN is their choice now is more than suspected; an idea that is favored by the course of the New York *World*. Meanwhile PENDLETON'S supporters are not only active but confident.

THE New York *Herald* prints a New Orleans dispatch which says "the rebels and conservatives have combined under the name of Democracy and are determined in their opposition to the radicals." This, we believe, is the first formal throwing off of the mask. The sympathy existing be the "rebels and conservatives" has never been doubted, but the nuptials have not before been published. Having coalesced during the war to destroy the Government, why should not "the rebels and conservatives" come together on questions growing out of the rebellion, "under the name of Democracy?"

THE very able speech of Senator MORTON, printed in this issue, should be read by every one who has any desire to know the truth. As a vindication of the policy of Congress and the position of the Republican party, it is unanswerable. Nothing was ever more triumphant, and it stamps its distinguished author as one of the foremost statesmen of the country. The tone of the speech is admirable, its argumentation perfect. It takes the reader up and carries him along, convincing the judgment, and satisfying the most ardent desire to know the true line of authority and reason.

THE San Francisco *Bulletin*, the leading paper in the State, says "GRANT is as clearly the choice as was LINCOLN in 1864, and the politicians will as surely be obliged to heed the popular wish in regard to him, against their own wishes may be, as they were in regard to LINCOLN. The people like his reticence, his common sense, his notions of economy, his subordination of his personalty to his duty, his respect for public opinion, his freedom from arrogance and dictation. His very silence is a golden virtue in this age of gab."

THE Republicans of Ohio will hold their State Convention to select delegates to the Chicago Convention on the 4th of March. The State Committee met in Columbus on the 22d. A noticeable feature of the meeting was, that every time the name of General GRANT was mentioned, in connection with the Presidency, the speaker was loudly cheered. Every member of the committee expressed himself for GRANT, which, considering that Ohio is the home of Mr. CHASE, is significant.

THE Central GRANT Club, of St. Louis, have published a strong address to the Republicans of Missouri, setting forth the reasons why General GRANT should be the Republican nominee for President. Thus far no division of sentiment has been developed, and it is safe to predict that General GRANT will be nominated by acclamation at Chicago.

GEN. R. E. LEE declares that the course of Gen. HANCOCK was "the first dawn of hope he had seen for the people of the South since the termination of the war." Gen. HANCOCK has stood a good many hard shots from the rebels, but this we think is the hardest of them all, and entitles him to the commiseration of his countrymen.

THE Cincinnati *Commercial*, which has been credited with rather more than strong partiality for Mr. CHASE, concedes that "wherever the sense of the people, represented in Republican conventions, has been taken, the response has been, GRANT."

The Late John Lyon.

The announcement of the death of this venerable citizen will be found in another column. Though Mr. Lyon had lived far beyond the ordinary period of human life, all over our State and in some other States there are many who will be startled by the report that he has succumbed to the common lot. He appears to have always shunned prominence or distinction. Born, however, almost eighty-six years ago, in Carlisle, we believe—and during the seasons of his maturity and advancing age actively engaged in extensive business transactions, and in an important branch of manufacturing industry—his name and character are widely and most favorably known. A man of very kindly nature, as an employer of labor and in other ways he was a benefactor of many.

For a good many years he has not given much, if any, attention to business, we believe, and has been living in retirement. His mental faculties, however, remained in vigor, and he never ceased to take a lively interest in public affairs, both secular and religious. Through his long life he had mingled much with mankind of various conditions and pursuits and had ever been a close observer.

All along he had known
"Hence it came
That in our boyhood's days he was rich.
And in the wisdom of our daily life
As Mr. Lyon had known more or less intimately many of the men of the past—years ago deceased but in their day distinguished as lawyers, or as politicians—his recollections were sometimes highly instructive and entertaining. May one not a relative be pardoned for saying that Mr. Lyon's last years seemed to realize what the young might reasonably pray for as the happy consummation of a favored life. Surrounded by children and grandchildren who revered and loved him—with no apparent earthly cares to trouble him—within him the faith and the hope which man can neither give nor take away

"His peaceful being slowly passed,
To a more perfect peace."

Signs at Washington.

Mr. George W. Hall writes from Washington to the Secretary of the National Manufacturers' Union, Chicago, the following letter:

"In our business we are meeting with all the success we anticipated. The pressure brought to bear upon Congress is more than it can withstand. There is a general feeling of relief with them, and I am mistaken or there will be radical reforms before long. The Committee of Ways and Means have already resolved to report a bill repealing all taxes upon manufactures, except luxuries, and we hope to get the income tax off also. Our exports are rapidly sufficient to admit of it. To this end we are laboring with individuals in the House of Representatives, men in whose hands are expenditures, appropriations, etc., etc., and I think I am safe in saying that our labors in Congress are crowned with success, but it must be watched and pressed to the end.

MR. WM. RAY SMEE, writing in the London *Morning Star*, directs attention to the use of rye bread, on the score of cheapness. The writer adverts to the fact "that bread made from rye is eaten by all ranks of society in the northeast of Europe, and is scarcely ever absent from the tables of the noble and wealthy, because two sorts of bread are considered more wholesome and more nourishing than the exclusive use of one. Of these two kinds of bread, the rye and the finest wheaten, made at the Vienna bakery of the Paris Exhibition, and served at the adjoining lager beer-drinking hall, the rye bread was largely taken in preference. The case of a German is cited, who, in his own country, used to eat a slice of wheaten bread and a slice of rye bread together, and who, on coming to reside in England, suffered much in health from the entire use of wheaten bread.

Captain Rohrer, whose father resides in Harrisburg, mysteriously disappeared from Pottsville about two months since. At the time he had two partners, and there were suspicions of foul play, but nothing was known definitely until yesterday (Friday) morning, when the father received the sad intelligence that the body of his murdered son was thrown into the Marshfield Coal Slope, which is about five hundred feet deep and filled with water. It is now being pumped out. The son of one of the partners of the deceased divulged the terrible crime. All the parties implicated have been arrested. The motive for the murder is supposed to have been to secure a certain valuable coal lease. The names of the partners are Smith and Albrighton. Captain Rohrer was a young married man of unblemished reputation.

IT is a remarkable fact that after two years' investigation into the collection of the whisky tax by a variety of commissions—Congressional, scientific, and detective—frauds have been steadily increasing, and the revenue has been steadily diminishing. Government is now collecting but $23,000,000 from this source, and there is some interest to see Gen. Van Wyck's forthcoming report on the subject, which will, it is said, tell the reason why.

HOLDERS OF THE LUCKY TICKETS.—W. R Scribner, No. 678, Broadway, New York, was the holder of the number that drew the $40,000 prize in the Riverside Institute distribution. The second prize of $20,000 was drawn by Mr. R. Somerby, of Boston, Mass. Mr. Somerby is a well-known gift showman, but who Mr. Scribner is the public is not so well informed. These showmen are remarkably lucky fellows, to always share in the first prizes of gift distributions.

THE case which has been for some time pending, involving the jurisdiction of West Virginia in Berkly and Jefferson counties, and was disputed by Virginia and taken to the United States Supreme Court, has been decided in favor of West Virginia.

ON THE PRAIRIES.

How to Reach There---and After.

To reach the great prairies of Illinois we will take the cars of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad at 2:15 after noon, and after a rapid ride through Western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, we arrive at the eastern border of the great prairie State. Still pushing westward we are landed in Chicago at ten o'clock on the following morning having made the trip of four hundred and sixty miles in a little less than twenty hours. Still westward, we take the train at Chicago and in a few hours we are borne into the heart of the great, rich, rolling prairies of Northern Illinois. To the traveler, for health and pleasure, and to the settler the prospect, particularly in the spring, is at once grand and inviting. The pleasure seeker will gaze with admiration at the wide-spreading prairie, covered with sweet scented clover, violets, pinks and the wild roses growing at the roadside. But the settler with a more practical eye will look at the well cultivated farms, the thrifty orchards, and the fat, rich black soil of the virgin prairie lying at his feet awaiting the breaking, and if a good man, his heart will swell with thankfulness to the great Giver of all good for providing these teeming granaries in the West to feed the people in the East. But the practical settler will not lose much time in admiration of the beauties around him, but will proceed at once to procure a high, dry rolling, piece of prairie for his farm. Then he wants a house, stable, team, wagon and plow. As it is our intention to try and describe the different operations of the settler on the prairies, and as the house is the first thing needed, let us show how they dig the cellars and build their houses in the western country. We will, therefore, commence with the cellar. Select a high, dry piece of ground, as near the road as is convenient, then measure off the proposed size of your cellar, cut four stakes for corner pins, and set them as squarely as possible with the road. Now hitch your team to the plow, tie the driving lines in a knot, put them over your shoulders, and plow up all the surface inside the corner pins. Then unhitch your horses and hitch on to the scraper. The scraper is an instrument much used in the west for digging cellars and repairing roads—in shape, much like a large scoop-shovel, and will hold a barrel of dirt when full. It is made very strong, to withstand the hard tugs it undergoes in its contests with old mother earth. The scraper can be hired or borrowed from some of the neighbors. Fasten a strong chain at each end to two iron staples fixed on each side of the pointed end of the scraper; then fasten it in the center with a clevis to your whiffletrees, and, with a boy to drive, haul the scraper close up to one of the corner pins; take hold of the handles of the scraper at the back end and raise it up: the boy now starts the team, and it is soon filled with soil; drive out at the end opposite to where you entered; having unloaded, drive back close up to the furrow you have just made; and keep on in this manner, scraping backward and forward, until you have removed all the loose soil made by plowing. Now plow it all over again as deep as possible, and scrape it out as before, and repeat the different processes until you have all the dirt removed, except some little at the ends. Now take your spade, square off the ends and any irregularities that may be on the sides or bottom. In this way a large cellar may be dug in a short time and with very little labor. Now get a stone mason to build you a good solid wall, extending two feet above the surface; then scrape up all the loose dirt to it, sloping it gradually from the wall: sow some cloverseed, harrow it in well, and you will soon have a nice little grassy plat around the dwelling; it will also throw the water away from the wall, and the cellar will be warm and dry.

By this time the carpenters will have the wood work all ready to set up, and very soon the house will be sided up and enclosed. The prairie house is divided off somewhat after the following manner: On the first floor there is a large kitchen, a bed room, and a buttery or pantry, with a stairway leading to the upper chamber rooms, and also one from the buttery to the cellar. The upper story is partitioned off into bedrooms. The large kitchen on the first floor, answers also the purposes of a sitting room and parlor. It is a very good idea, too, for there the family all meet together and are friendly and sociable—there the plans for the morrow's work are discussed—there the children receive their instruction, and become orderly and well behaved under the strict but kind eye of their parents. Now how to make our house warm and comforable during the long cold prairie winter. The settler will go to the nearest saw mill and get twice as many pine strips one inch thick, two inches wide, as there are studding in his house; cut these strips the proper length to reach from the floor to the ceiling, nail them on each side of the studding to the weatherboards; saw lath to fit between the studs and nail them to the strips. Now put on a good heavy coat of plaster—this is plastering between the studding. Put on your lath and plaster on the outside in the usual manner, and the prairie house is as warm and comfortable as any mansion of greater pretension further East.

The settler being now in his own house, the first thing to be done is to put up a stable, and as straw stables are very common on the prairies we will describe the manner of building them: In the first place grind your axe up sharp, take the box off your wagon and drive over to the nearest grove (good timber in the tree can be bought there for four dollars per cord) and cut down ten small trees,—say twelve or fourteen inches through,—being careful always to cut trees with branches, in order to make a good strong crotch. Then cut three stout poles eighteen feet long, and a number of light poles; haul them to the spot designed for the stable, mark off sixteen feet square, and set the ten posts, the three in the center being four feet higher than the outside ones. Lay the three stout poles in the crotches of the uprights; then put your lighter poles crossways on top of them, ten inches apart, letting them extend a foot over the sides and ends. Now nail still lighter poles to the uprights, twelve inches apart all around this frame; then bank straw four feet thick firmly at the sides and ends up to the eaves. For a roof, pile on load after load of straw until of sufficient thickness; then cover it with prairie hay and lay on some poles to prevent it from being blown off by the wind. For a manger, drive sharpened posts, three inches apart, across one end of the stable; saw their tops off evenly, then take a pole sixteen feet long, flatten and pin it tight to the tops of the posts. Saw a joist into suitable lengths and make four strong boxes; cover their tops with sheet iron and pin them inside of the posts, and you have a manger strong and durable. It would be well to throw in a few loads of gravel, sloping it from the manger backward; it will answer a good purpose in keeping the stable dry. Hang on the door, using the tenth post to latch it to, and you have the straw stable of the prairies.

The next in the big job of the season, viz., breaking the sod. Procure a good breaking plow, with a sharp rolling coulter attached. Supposing the land to be broken, eighty rods long: take four poles; place one twenty rods from your starting point, and the other two, in a direct line, to the end of the field; the fourth one is to be placed twenty paces to the left of the starting point; when you reach the first pole put it on a line with the one twenty paces to the left, and so on, to the end of the eighty rods. Cut a furrow across, to a line with the poles—then go back as you came up. Breaking is now an easy job. Any person can break forty acres in a month, working steadily. In the fall it should be cross plowed, and then left to the mellowing influences of winter. In the spring, when the ground is sufficiently dry, sow sixty bushels of good clean wheat, harrow it in well, and if properly harvested you will, in all probability, have one thousand bushels of good plump wheat, which will bring $1 50 to $2 00 in any of the neighboring towns. Prairie farming will pay in money a large per centage; and in a healthful, hardened frame, a per centage that cannot be reckoned. Let not the Eastern man dread the prairie winter: it is the winter that prepares the ground for sowing. The winter prepares the man for the spring work.

CHICAGO, to relieve the necessities of the poor of the city, gave a Charity Ball. Of course it